# SaipanTribune

**TUESDAY** SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XIV, Issue No. 258

### INSIDE



#### **Airline Woes**

US Airways Group Inc., the nation's seventh largest airline, filed for bankruptcy protection Sunday for the second time in two years. The company's president vowed to continue restructuring the airline into a low-cost carrier during the bankruptcy process.

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#### **Hurricane Relief**

The only whooshing sound Hurricane Ivan stirred in the Keys and populous South Florida on Sunday was a sigh of relief from residents no longer fearful the 150-mph storm would make a direct hit.

Page 13



### **Zombie Zing**

The undead came alive once more over the weekend as "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" debuted at No. 1 at the box office, bringing in \$23.7 million.

Page 22

# **Credit relief for CDA borrowers backed**

...as lending agency's delinquency rate balloons to 83 percent



Marianas High School MY WAVE Club members busy themselves painting classroom doors in this photo taken over the weekend at MHS. The activity was meant to instill a sense of community service among the tourism group's members.

### Azmar's pozzolan mining bid in peril

By JOHN RAVELO

The House of Representatives would urge the Marianas Public Lands Authority to suspend the conditional approval for Azmar International Inc.'s pozzolan mining venture on Pagan, directing its legal counsel to look into reports that the company had intended to claim ownership of historical artifacts that might be found on the island.

House Rep. Joseph DeLeon Guerrero raised this concern during yesterday's session, saying that the MPLA should even totally deny Azmar's pozzolan mining bid if the reports are found to be true.

"It's really disturbing to me," Guerrero said. "They [Azmar] are planning to do something illegal."

"If that is the situation, they should be denied the permit," Guerrero added.

While the House is looking into the veracity of Azmar's purported interest to discreetly claim ownership of historical artifacts, Guerrero said the MPLA should at least suspend the conditional approval it had given to the Arizona-based company.

See AZMAR on Page 12

By JOHN RAVELO

s delinquency rate on loans obtained from the Commonwealth Development Authority reached some 83 percent, the House of Representatives yesterday passed a legislative measure that sought credit relief for delinquent borrowers, such as reduction of interest rates and effective condonation in certain circumstances.

Majority of the House members passed Senate Bill 14-48 with certain amendments, garnering a unanimous vote from nearly all the 16 members who were present, except for Rep. Arnold Palacios, who abstained from the facing difficult and uncertain voting. Two other members— House Reps. Janet Maratita and of the loans," it states. Ray Yumul—were absent.

The House went on with passing the bill despite the opposition of the CDA, which earlier said that legislative intervention to have certain delinguent loans condoned would result in financial disaster to the government's money-lending agency. The Senate passed the bill last March 23, before tossing it to the House.

While the bill recognized that the high rate of delinquency threatens the CDA's loan programs, it also emphasized unstable economic conditions that contributed to many borrowers' inability to repay the loans.

"[The] CDA must make accommodations to assist these borrowers who are currently times and ensure the repayment

See CREDIT on Page 12

### Visitor arrivals near half-million mark

By AGNES E. DONATO

Visitor arrivals for 2004 are expected to exceed the half-amillion mark by the end of the fiscal year, giving the CNMI tourism industry a reassuring sign of gradual recovery.

Based on preliminary data from the Marianas Visitors Authority, the year-to-date tourist arrivals now total 484,579—surpassing the 458,444 visitors registered in the entire FY 2003.

The 2004 figures cover arrivals from October 2003 to August 2004. Last month's numbers, however, do not yet include Rota and Tinian arrivals.

"The total visitor arrivals for 2004 to date, suggests that travelers to the CNMI have gained travel confidence, which is a reassuring sign for industry service providers and consumers alike," said MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente.

She added, "The World Tourism Organization states that travel to Asia Pacific countries is expected to mirror the current upward trend in travel worldwide. For the CNMI, our research affiliates from abroad indicates a strong growth for the coming year, especially from the China and Japan travel markets."

See VISITOR on Page 12

### Tourist fights with flight attendants, ends up in prison

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

A tourist found himself in police custody upon arriving on Saipan Friday and is now charged with a criminal offense for fighting with two flight attendants while in the aircraft.

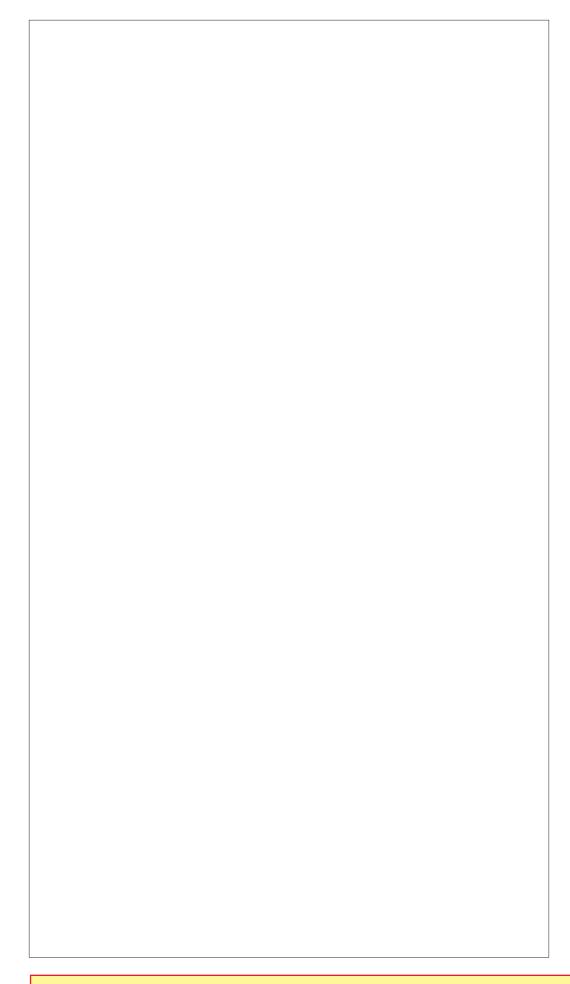
Complaint data showed that Liu Shijun, who is charged with interference

with flight crew members at the U.S. District Court, assaulted two flight attendants while aboard China Southern Airlines en route from Shanghai to Saipan on Sept. 11

See TOURIST on Page 12

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# Local





The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor.tribune@gtepacifica.net. To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

# Babauta wants 'concon' question in '05 polls

By JOHN RAVELO

A question asking CNMI voters if they want a new constitutional convention—that may pave the way for amendments and major socio-political changes—will be included in poll ballots in the November 2005 general elections.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he would soon issue a procla-

Babauta said he already instructed the Attorney General to draft the proclamation for his signature.

"I shall soon sign the proclamation," Babauta said, in

### Supreme Court affirms 1998 deportation ruling

REPORTER

Resolving a 1998 immigration case, the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that the trial court has jurisdiction over deportation proceedings without an administrative hearing as long as the government files a petition to show cause.

The High Court's Sept. 10, 2004 ruling, penned by chief justice Miguel S. Demapan, associate justice Alexandro C. Castro, and justice pro tempore Pedro M. Atalig, affirmed the Superior Court's 1998 decision in the deportation of nonresident worker Zenaida S. Estel.

The Attorney General's Office sought Estel's deportation in July 1998.

On Sept. 1, 1998, the court held an order to show cause hearing and ordered the worker's immediate deportation.

On Sept. 4, 1998 the defendant appealed the decision and sought a stay of deportation. The court denied the petition on the same day.

In her appeal, Estel, represented by lawyer Anthony Long, questioned whether the trial court properly exercised jurisdiction to determine that she was a deportable alien.

The appellant argued that the court may not exercise proper jurisdiction until the Department of Labor [and Immigration] revokes that worker's status after holding an administrative hearing.

No such hearing or revocation took place, which according to Estel, resulted in the trial court improperly exercising jurisdiction in ordering deportation.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court said that jurisdiction over deportation hearings in the trial court is granted in Commonwealth code sections 3 CMC.

It said that it begins in the court with the AGO filing a petition to show cause.

It said that grounds for deportation exist "whenever an alien's entry permit has expired, failed to obtain a new entry permit, or there is some other legal reason to allow her to remain."

Records showed that due to the inaction of Estel's transfer employer, her transfer application expired.

The expiration made her continued presence in the Commonwealth a violation of the law.

mation directing the Election Commission to include in next year's polls the question: "Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?"

A valid nonresident worker's employment contract, the court agreed, may not be terminated until her worker's certificate has

been revoked after a hearing. However, the court said that Estel's case was distinguishable because she no longer had valid legal status or a valid employment contract in the Commonwealth.

"As such, DOLI was not required to revoke her already invalid status ...and the trial court's exercise of jurisdiction over her deportation hearing was proper," said the Supreme Court.

Meantime, while the SC affirmed the trial court's deportation order, it remanded the case to DOL for the department's "failure to enforce Estel's transfer employer's repatriation obligation" which "denied her a property interest and violated her due process."

The appellant, who worked as housekeeper, reportedly shouldered her own deportation expense, instead of her transfer employer that faulted in the first place to comply with application rules and regulations.

In her 1998 appeal, Estel also argued that her deportation was a violation of her rights under the due process clause and the Equal Protection clause and doubted that the CNMI government established a clear and convincing evidence that she was a deportable alien.

The Supreme Court said it found no equal protection violation "as controlling immigration is a compelling state interest."

At the same time, it said that the government "met its burden of providing clear and convincing evidence" that Estel was a deportable alien.

Records showed that Estel entered the CNMI in March 1993 on a permit, which expired in February 1994.

After resolving a complaint filed by Estel in 1994, the department granted her a transfer relief in 1996.

However, Estel's transfer employer failed to file her labor permit within the 30-day deadline, resulting in the employer having the responsibility to repatriate her.

Despite this, Estel continued to work in the Commonwealth without a valid permit for two years.

She was finally ordered to be deported in 1998.

a Sept. 8 letter to Herman T. Guerrero, a delegate to past constitutional conventions.

"I agree with you that since the Legislature failed to act within the 10-year timeline to direct by joint resolution the placement of the question in the 2001 general election, I will have to issue a proclamation directing the Election Commission to include the question in the Nov. 5, 2005 general election ballot," the governor said.

Guerrero earlier wrote a letter to Babauta, asking the governor to exercise his authority to act on the inclusion of the question in next year's polls.

He stressed the constitutional mandate that the question should be submitted to the vot-

ers at a regular general election no later than 10 years after the question was last submitted. He added that the Constitution designates the governor to submit the question to the voters if the Legislature fails to do so.

Guerrero said the inclusion of the question would allow provisions of the CNMI Constitution to be "revisited and improved or removed to meet the need of changing times."

Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan said the Babauta administration

> has been aware of the 10-year timeline even before Guerrero made his request. Babauta also said he, Sablan and the AG met last May 25 to discuss the matter.

"We can expect the question [in the ballots]," Sablan said in a telephone interview yesterday.

A constitutional convention may pave the way to revisit controversial constitutional provisions pertaining to land alienation from those persons who are not of Northern Marianas descent and permanent residency, among others.

Last week, House Rep. Claudio Norita introduced a legislative initiative that seeks to amend the CNMI Constitution to extend the permissible leasehold of private land from 55 years to 75 years.

Norita underscored the need to help investors who have concerns that the current 55year lease term would not be sufficient to recover their investments. He also said private landowners have also been approaching him, expressing support for extending the maximum permissible lease.

### La Fiesta takeover can lead to more belt-tightening

Babauta

By AGNES E. DONATO

More cost-cutting measures loom ahead of the Commonwealth's Executive Branch, as the Governor's Office is poised to take over the operation of the La Fiesta shopping complex.

Press secretary Peter Callaghan said the governor fully supports the proposal by the Northern Marianas College to transfer ownership of La Fiesta and have the Executive Branch assume management of the facility.

Callaghan maintained that the Governor's Office has the money to run La Fiesta, but also said that budget cuts are in order for the Executive Branch.

NMC finance officer Raaj Kurapati said earlier that the mall's operational expenses average \$120,000 a month. But according to Callaghan, the net cost is only \$30,000 monthly after tenants pay their rent.

"Obviously, the Governor's

Office has the money or they wouldn't be making the offer," the press secretary said. "[Operation of La Fiesta] will probably result in a combination of cutting down budgets within the Executive Branch, as well as money that was earmarked for other things that could be used to offset the \$30,000 a month."

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Northern Marianas College officials were scheduled to sign yesterday a memorandum of agreement for the transfer of responsibility of La Fiesta. But the signing did not materialized.

The agreement was still under legal review, Callaghan said. He added that the mall's owners-Hotel Nikko Saipan and Coco's Lagoon Development Corp.—have yet to concur with the planned transfer. "I don't think they have a problem with [who pays them], as long as they get paid," he said.

Callaghan noted that the governor's taking over La Fiesta was a necessary step in order to help NMC keep its accreditation. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which has placed the college's accreditation on warning status, has expressed concern about NMC's financial status including the cost of operating La Fiesta.

"What the governor has done is he's given the [NMC Board of Regents] as part of this agreement the opportunity to take a long look at the options for La Fiesta without having to worry about the monetary stuff, and come back to him at a future date and show him a plan for the use of La Fiesta," Callaghan said.

A provision of the draft agreement states that the governor will lease the facility back to NMC for a dollar a year, once the college comes up with a plan to utilize the mall.

No short-term plan has been made for the use of facility for the meantime.

Babauta is not deviating

from his long-term plan to use La Fiesta as an educational facility that is part of NMC, Callaghan added.

"The overall Pacific Gateway Project is still a good plan. It's still a viable way for us to bring additional revenues into the CNMI, and [to develop] education as an industry. I don't think the governor is going to let a few, short-term bumps make him deviate from his dream of turning La Fiesta into a beautiful college," he said.

At the business conference organized by the U.S. Department of the Interior this month, Babauta will be meeting with an investor who has committed to building a dormitory at La Fiesta.

Callaghan refused to give specific details pending the closure of the deal. "But the commitment is there 100 percent. And we should have some news on that within the next couple of weeks," he said.

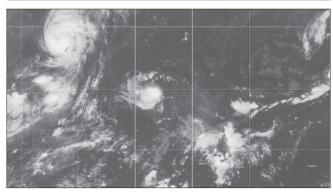
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### **WEATHER FORECAST**



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM., SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sarika is centered near 19n145e...just south of Agrihan. Tropical Storm Sarika is moving west-northwest at 20 mph and has maximum sustained winds of 70 mph with higher gusts. Showers and thunderstorms associated with sarika are located between 17n and 21n from 142e to 148e. For further details on Tropical Storm Sarika...See NWS Guam Advisory WTPQ31 PGUM as well as JTWC bulletin WTPN31 PGTW. Typhoon Songda is centered near 27n128e and has moved out of the discussion area. However...convergent flow into typhoon Songda is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 13n and 25n from 130e to 135e. An upper-level low near 14n163e is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 6n and 14n from 156e to 167e. This covers portions of Pohnpei state. An area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is located between 9n and 16n from 150e to 155e. Surface wind flow convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the Equator and 5n from 142e to 150e. An area of low pressure centered near 27n173e is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 50 miles of a line that stretches from 19n156e to 18n169e to 23n180.



#### **SAIPAN AND TINIAN**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**Winds**: Southwest at 5 mph. Highs near 88. Lows near 75.



#### **GUAM AND ROTA**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. **Winds**: Southwest at 5 mph. Highs near 88. Lows near 76.

near

PALAU
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

showers.

Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.

Highs: 85 Lows: 73

Highs: 85 Lows: 73

YAP AND ULITHI

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.
Highs: 86 Lows: 78

KOSRAE

**POHNPEI** 

showers.

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 5 kt.

Highs: 88 Lows: 76

Partly cloudy with isolated

Winds: Northeast at 5-10 kt.

Highs: 85 Lows: 72

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 5-10 kt.
Highs: 85 Lows: 79

MAJURO

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. **Winds**: Northeast at 15-20 kt. **Highs**:85 **Lows**: 76

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	CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW	
黨	Auckland	Sunny	55F (13C)	42F (6C)	
葉	Beijing	Sunny	83F (28C)	68F (20C)	
	Hong Kong	Thunder	85F (29C)	76F (24C)	
4	Honolulu	Showers	88F (31C)	74F (24C)	
慕	London, England	Sunny	81F (27C)	61F (16C)	
2	Los Angeles	Sunny	93F (34C)	62F (17C)	
2	Manila	Cloudy	87F (31C)	74F (23C)	
4	Melbourne	Cloudy	60F (16C)	47F (8C)	
	Miami	Thunder	90F (32C)	76F (24C)	
4	New York City	Partly Cloudy	76F (24C)	66F (19C)	
The same	Osaka	Rain	78F 26C)	68F (20C)	
禁	Paris	Sunny	82F (28C)	61F (16C)	
	Pusan	Thunder	81F (27C)	66F (19C)	
禁	Rome	Sunny	82F (28C)	61F (16C)	
禁	Salem, Oregon	Sunny	82F (28C)	50F (10C)	
禁	San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)	
4	Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	61F (16C)	
2	Tokyo, Japan	Cloudy	84F (29C)	73F (23C)	
	Washington, DC	Thunder	82F (28C)	68F (20C)	

### **Pacific Gardenia files for bankruptcy**

By LIBERTY DONES

Pacific Gardenia Hotel yesterday filed a bankruptcy case with the U.S. District Court as talks of its receivership is still awaiting a decision from the Superior Court.

Pacific Gardenia president Ronald Sablan filed the petition under chapter 7 of U.S. Bankruptcy code and chapter 11 Small Business as defined in the U.S. Code.

Sablan, in a document, declared an estimated asset of up to \$10 million and an estimated debt of the same amount.

This developed as the Superior Court is expected to rule on the motion to place the corporation under receivership this week.

The Commonwealth Development Authority asked the court last July to appoint a trustee to manage and collect the profits of Pacific Gardenia Hotel until the case against the

hotel's owners is resolved.

CDA said that as of last Jan. 20, Sy's Corporation, which does business as Pacific Gardenia Hotel, and its officers Ronald, Maria Ana, and Jeannette Sablan owe CDA over \$2.4 million, and are more than five years delinquent in their payment.

CDA attorney F. Matthew Smith said that CDA's rights and interests would be irreparably injured unless a receiver is appointed to take charge of the business affairs of Sy's [Corporation] and to take possession of its property until a final decision or order from the court is issued following foreclosure.

Court records showed that Jeannette, sister of Ronald, has already agreed to the proposed appointment of a trustee on June 17.

In the motion filed earlier, Smith claimed that spouses Ronald and Maria Ann Sablan have been mismanaging the assets of Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Sunset Bar and Grill.

CDA alleged that Sablans are maintaining separate sets of accounting books and had presented fictitious books to CDA in the past.

Sy's Corporation is reportedly operating without a CNMI business license due to unpaid taxes, and owes employees over \$100,000 in back wages.

Further, all checks payable to Sy's Corporation were allegedly being diverted and deposited directly into the personal accounts of the Sablan couple.

CDA said that if the court appoints a receiver, the trustee could collect, account for, and place all proceeds from the hotel operations into a secure account that can be readily available for the court to distribute to entitled persons.

The case was filed after the Gardenia owners failed to make required payments for several loans they obtained from the authority.



OFF TO THE NORTHERN ISLANDS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Juan N. Babauta takes off from Agingan Point on Saipan aboard an Americopters chopper bound for Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan Islands, which were hit by two supertyphoons and a tropical storm recently.

### Library Friends to hold another book sale

Library Friends will be having another book sale this coming Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004, from 9am to 4pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library conference room.

Anyone who wish to help can come Friday evening at around 6pm or on Saturday to lend a hand with the actual sale.

Those who come Friday evening will have first choice of the books for sale. Also, anyone wishing to donate books, magazines or tapes for the sale may bring their donation to the library.

Library Friends will also be holding its next meeting on Monday, Sept. 20, 2004, 5pm at the conference room.

In addition, Library Friends is currently in the middle of a membership drive and all residents of Saipan are welcome to join. Library Friends was formed in 2001 to support the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and promote literacy in Saipan.

They have held book sales,

sponsored summer and Christmas reading programs, held holiday craft activities for children, donated books to the library, and used their funds from book sales to donate prizes for reading contests held by the library and the Library Friends.

Library Friends is also working on a plan to convert the library conference room into a children's library, complete with a local cultural theme and materials.

In Oct. 16, 2004, Saturday, Library Friends will also hold a Halloween craft activity for about 25 children from 9am to 11am at the conference room. There is a \$10 fee and parents must come to the library to sign up and pay in advance for the first come, first served program.

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### NMC BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

# Preparing tomorrow's business leaders today

With the many changes occurring in the workplace today, it is crucial for individuals to develop the necessary job and business skills and acquire the relevant knowledge that will prepare them for successful careers in the future.

The Northern Marianas College Business Department provides quality education and training to prepare the people of the CNMI for leadership and business management careers in private industry and the public sector.

The Business Department offers students the option of pursuing an Associate in Arts degree, an Associate in Applied Science degree, a Certificate of Completion, or a Certificate of Achievement in various career ladder tracks in business, tourism/hospitality, or computer applications areas.

Degree and certificate programs are currently offered in accounting, business management, hospitality management, computer applications, sales and marketing, international business, and office technology administration.

These degree and certificate programs are designed to provide marketable job skills that will enable students to pursue careers in banking, the tour-

ism industry, communications companies, retail businesses, government agencies, and other business sectors.

The department also provides students with various opportunities to work with public and private sector organizations, and learn from the experiences of community leaders through their guest speaker program. Numerous speakers representing government agencies, the hospitality industry, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations share their wealth of knowledge and experience with students as guest speakers in the classroom.

The Business Department is located in the V.S. Sablan Vocational Training Center (Building V), which offers some of the newest, air-conditioned classrooms on campus. These classrooms also offer access to extensive audio-visual tools, including wireless internet connectivity, that greatly enhance student learning and enjoyment.

The As Terlaje campus' four state-of-the-art computer labs feature new Pentium+ class computers as well as a Macintosh lab. In addition, the labs have incorporated multimedia presentation capabilities that allow students visual access to the



CONTROBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College business students present their group project to the class.

instructor's computer screen. This technology allows students the opportunity to actually see what the instructor is doing in a large, easy to read format before actually performing the operations on their own computers.

The Business Department faculty members bring with them decades of teaching and actual industry experience to the classroom. Students will be provided with an education that is not only academically solid,

but practical as well. In addition, the faculty has strong ties to the CNMI business community and industry leaders. This relationship allows NMC faculty the opportunity to integrate business needs into academic programs, which makes NMC graduates more employable.

Additionally, with excellent student to instructor ratios, averaging about 12 students per instructor, students are assured of easy access and extra help (if needed). The faculty is unique in that they truly care about their students, and getting to know each student and recognizing his/her needs is something they pride themselves in, and is a special bonus that students could not necessarily receive at a larger college or university.

NMC's current Business Department faculty includes acting department chairman Larry Lee, Perry Conner, Dr. John Griffin, Wil Maui, Bernie Sablan, Scott Tan, and Rik Villegas.

Whether you are pursuing a degree, considering transferring to a four-year institution or simply looking to enhance your job skills, the NMC Business Department is the first step on your path to success. To learn more about how the NMC Business Department can help you build a solid educational foundation and develop your managerial and leadership skills, visit or call them today.

For more information, please call 234-5498, ext. 1822 or 1827, or visit our web site at www.nmcnet.edu. (PR)

### Mificpa seminar workshop on Friday

The competitive edge of a business enterprise in the globalized world depends on its ability to forge a creative partnership with government and non-government institutions.

To help facilitate a healthy climate for exchange of information and synergy, the Marianas Institute Filipino CPAs and Accountants or Mificpa is sponsoring a special seminar workshop.

Dubbed "The Management, the Accountant and the Government—A Partnership for Profit and Stability," the seminar workshop is open to accountants, managers, and other members of the business workforce.

It will be held on Sept. 18, 7:30am to 4pm at the Rey Lounge Aqua Resort Club in Achugao. Registration fee is \$20, which is inclusive of materials, lunch, and refreshments in the morning and afternoon.

Relevant topics that will be vice for Filipinos in the busipresented for discussion include the following:

 Business opportunities in the CNMI;

Current problems of the business community;

□ Alternatives to the garment industry;

Second job for alien workers;

□ Financial, management accounting and statistical reports;

Impact of information technology on business operation; and

 Possibility of Saipan as a venue for CPA examinations.

Invited speakers are of high-caliber, known experts in their own fields, and have concerns of Overseas Foreign of the CNMI. Workers. They include Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan and Saipan Rep. Heinz Hofschneider.

Aside from its intended ser-

ness community, the seminar workshop is also organized to mark the 10th year anniversary of Mificpa, the only organization of OFWs that has a worldwide scope. Many of its members have successfully passed the U.S. CPA board examination. This year's anniversary bears the theme "Ten Years of Enhancing Growth and Development."

Mificpa steadfastly affirms its belief that the Filipino accountants, considered to be the best in the industry, perform a vital role in forging creative partnerships among the business community, government, and proven their solidarity with the non-government institutions

> For inquiries and reservations, please contact Lanie Matillano at 235-8641 or 287-4201 or any past and present officers of Mificpa. (PR)

### Ayuda donates medical supplies to Rota Health Center

The Guam Ayuda Foundation, through its executive director, Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero of Guam, donated 27 boxes of medical supplies to assist with the immediate needs of the Rota Health Center following the onslaught of Typhoon Chaba.

The supplies were made up of bandages, gloves, pillows, scrubs, and etc. The hospital was treating many patients

with minor cuts caused by them removing debris and clearing their homes.

Due to the closure of the port and the problems with the airline schedules after Typhoon Chaba, the hospital was not able to receive medical supplies on time. The hospital's Medical Supply Room also was flooded, which led to supplies getting wet.

On behalf of Mayor Benja-

min T. Manglona and the people of Rota, the Rota Health Center is extending its heartfelt appreciation to the Guam Ayuda Foundation for its fast delivery of supplies. Special thanks also go to Sen. LeonGuerrero, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Marianas Yacht Club, Dr. William S. Freeman and all those who assisted the Guam Avuda Foundation in one way or another. (PR)

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8 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Business**

# **US Airways files for bankruptcy protection**

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
AP BUSINESS WRITER

**ARLINGTON, Va.** (AP)—US Airways Group Inc., the nation's seventh largest airline, filed for bankruptcy protection Sunday for the second time in two years. The company's president vowed to continue restructuring the airline into a low-cost carrier during the bankruptcy process.

"We have come too far and accomplished too much to simply stop the process and not succeed," said Bruce Lakefield, US Airways' president and chief executive. "A restructured US Airways with low costs and low fares will be a dynamic competitor."

US Airways said customers would notice no operational changes as a result of the bankruptcy and that it will seek permission to continue its frequent flyer program.

The Chapter 11 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Alexandria came after US Airways was unable to obtain \$800 million in annual cost cuts from its workers' unions that the airline said it needed to stay afloat.

The company's return to bankruptcy comes as several of its larger rivals also confront the need to repair weak finances. UAL Corp.'s United Airlines has been operating under bankruptcy for nearly two years, AMR Corp.'s American Airlines was on the brink of a filing 18 months ago and Delta Air Lines Inc. warned that it might seek similar protection soon if it cannot trim its labor costs.

Several weeks ago, US Airways Chairman David Bronner warned that the airline would most likely have to liquidate if it filed for bankruptcy. Lakefield subsequently backed off those comments, and on Sunday again sought to assure customers that the airline faced no immediate danger of shutting down.

"I believe that the light of day will convince our employees that sacrifices are needed to keep the airline flying," Lakefield said in a telephone interview Sunday. "When you look at the other choices, I believe our employees will make the right choice."



With the U.S. Capital building in the background, a US Airways jet sits on a runway at Reagan National Airport on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2004 in Washington

### Travelers wary of US Airways moves

IMPERIAL, Pa. (AP)—Travelers at US Airways' hub airports on Sunday pondered whether they'll have to find a new carrier as the company returned to bankruptcy court, renewing doubts about the airline's future.

"I would be very hard-pressed to book (US Airways) right now, till things stabilize. I can't afford to be canceled," said Larry Landtiser, a vice president for an electronics manufacturer from the Pittsburgh suburb of St. Clairsville.

Landtiser, who was heading to Las Vegas on Sunday with his wife, said he travels to California 12 to 15 times a year and worries that key nonstops from

Last Monday, a deeply divided pilots union refused to allow its membership to vote on a company proposal that would have cut pay by 20 percent and retirement plan contributions by 50 percent.

As recently as Friday, US Airways

IMPERIAL, Pa. (AP)—Travelers at Pittsburgh to the West might be lost.

The Arlington, Va.-based carrier has hubs in Charlotte, N.C., and Philadelphia. Before Sunday's bankruptcy filing, it had been reducing service at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Some passengers expressed concern about US Airways Group Inc.'s latest bankruptcy filing, even though the airline said it would continue operating its normal schedule. Others said they were confident the matter would work out for the best.

"It was convenient, but others will be here if US Airways goes away," said Massimo DiRusso as he waited

made a last-ditch effort to reach a deal with the pilots, offering a proposal with minimum pay cuts that would have required more flight hours each month, putting more pilots at risk of furlough.

utting more pilots at risk of furlough.

Some pilot representatives who

at a ticket desk Sunday evening at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in North Carolina.

Jack Elmore said he flies two or three times a month, almost exclusively on US Airways, and wasn't clear what Sunday's bankruptcy filing would mean for his travel.

"It's hard to follow, but the impression is, it's more serious this time," said Elmore, of Wexford, Pa. "Bottom line—are they going to be able to come out of bankruptcy?"

Several US Airways employees at the Pittsburgh airport declined to comment.

opposed the new deal said the pilots and other US Airways workers had made enough concessions during the company's first trip into bankruptcy in August 2002. Then, the unions collectively agreed to contract concessions of more than \$1 billion a year.

Fred Freshwater, a pilots' union representative from Pittsburgh who opposed management's latest contract offer, said he wasn't surprised the company was unable to reach deals with labor and that it sought bankruptcy.

"When you look at the behavior of management, when you look at their proposals, they were seeking the total capitulation of labor," Freshwater said.

The bankruptcy filing also could cost federal taxpayers. The government loaned the airline \$900 million last year as part of a special program to assist airlines after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The airline still owes Uncle Sam \$718 million, and it will ultimately be up to a bankruptcy court to determine the government's place in line among creditors. But Lakefield said the Air Transportation Stabilization Board is a secured creditor, and would be first among those seeking repayment.

US Airways said Sunday that it has an agreement in place with the government and with other lenders to use some of its cash reserves to continue operations while in bankruptcy. In its filing, the company listed \$8.8 billion in assets, including \$1.45 billion in cash, and \$8.7 billion in liabilities.

A hearing was scheduled Monday morning in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The company said financial deadlines looming on Sept. 30 forced it to file now to conserve cash to navigate bankruptcy. The airline also had a \$110 million pension payment due Wednesday if it had not sought protection.

While US Airways has an agreement with its lenders to use some of its existing cash reserves, it does not have a new investor lined up to provide additional financing. When the airline filed for bankruptcy in 2002, investment firm Texas Pacific Group had already agreed to invest \$200 million in the airline. That plan was eventually supplanted by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, a pension fund for state workers, which invested \$240 million for a 36 percent stake in the carrier and eight seats on its board.

### Savings cited in real-time power-pricing

WASHINGTON (AP)—People could save as much as \$15 billion annually if they had more information about fluctuations in the price of electricity and then acted to cut power usage when prices were expected to be high, congressional investigators conclude.

In a study examining experimental programs in real-time power-pricing, they said widespread use of "demandresponse" programs would cut electricity bills and ease pressure on grid systems during peak demand periods.

The study by the Government Accountability Office focused on pilot programs in New York, Georgia, Florida and New York. It examined power costs for 53 government buildings, about two-thirds of which participated in a programs where electricity use could be reduced at a time when the cost was expected to be highest.

The findings, and an examination of various private studies on the pilot

programs in recent years, showed that "widespread use demand-response programs could result in savings ranging from \$5 billion to \$15 billion, depending on the extent of the participation and the cost implementation," according to the auditing arm of Congress.

Sen. Susan Collins, who asked for the study, said "most consumers are not given the option of saving money on their electricity bills by using electricity at off-peak times" or cutting back on power use when prices get expensive.

That is because both residential and commercial customers do not know the real-time cost of electricity at any given time or lack the equipment or communication ties with utilities to adjust power use with changes in price, the study said.

"Our current system is tilted toward more supply always being the answer," said Collins, R-Maine, who on Sunday made available a copy of the findings. The agency said that during a heat wave in New York in 2001, demand response programs saved customers \$13 million because power use was temporarily curtailed. An experimental program in Florida achieved average savings of 11 percent in annual electricity costs.

The report also cited examples such as:

the manager of a textile mill in rural Georgia who cut the use of power from a utility during high-price periods and, instead, used an onsite generator, saving \$1 million a year.

a group of residential customers in Chicago that reduced their power costs by an average of nearly 20 percent by taking part in a pilot-program where they received notice of price increases in advance so they could cut back their use.

But the GAO said there were significant barriers to expanding such pilot programs.

### Tokyo stocks open higher; dollar falls

**TOKYO** (AP)—Tokyo stocks opened higher Monday following Wall Street's strength on Friday. The dollar was down against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 issues was up 56.74 points, or 0.51 percent, at 11,139.97 points early Monday. On Friday, the index fell 87.73 points, or 0.79 percent.

The dollar was quoted at 109.48 yen at 9 a.m. Monday, down 0.61 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and also below the 109.55 yen it bought in New York later that day.

On the stock market, investors bought high-technology blue chips following gains Friday in the technology-dominated Nasdaq Stock Market.

U.S. stocks rose Friday on a decline in oil prices and a surprise drop in wholesale prices.

The Nasdaq gained 24.66, or 1.3

percent, to 1,894.31.The Dow Jones industrial average rose 23.97, or 0.2 percent, to 10,313.07.

Early Monday in Tokyo, the index of all issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's first section gained 5.35 points, or 0.47 percent, to 1,131.71 points. The TOPIX lost 6.76 points, or 0.55 percent, on Friday.

In currencies, the dollar remained weaker against the yen after the U.S. currency declined Friday in New York on concerns about the economy's overall health.

The euro rose to \$1.2284 early Monday in Tokyo from \$1.2228 late Friday. Against the yen, the euro slipped to 134.54 yen from 134.61 yen.

On the bond market, the yield on Japan's benchmark 10-year government bond was unquoted after finishing at 1.5100 percent Friday, with the price of 100.78 points.

10 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Opinion



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### **EDITORIAL**

### **Bringing on the guns**

resident Bush doesn't care, and neither do the Republican House and Senate leaders. They're content to open up the streets to the pointless and exceptionally deadly gunfire of assault-style weapons. Their cold political calculation: Let the assault weapons ban expire Monday night, and let the police in particular and everybody in general fend for their lives. After all, that's the way people like it --or so claims Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who, unlike other doctors who have treated shooting victims, thinks this is what the people want. "I think the will of the American people is consistent with letting it expire, so it will expire," Mr. Frist told reporters last week.

That's dead wrong. As Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., responded, "The 'will of the American people' has been carefully evaluated by poll after poll that show two-thirds to three-fourths of the people support the ban." The most recent national poll, conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey, found that 68 percent of Americans wanted to extend the ban, including 57 percent of those with a gun in their household. A Frist aide said the majority leader was referring to a lack of pressure from within the Senate. Ms. Feinstein noted that she had written Mr. Frist asking him to schedule a vote on the issue.

In the House, Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, calls the assault weapon ban "a feel-good piece of legislation" that does nothing to keep weapons out of the hands of criminals. He's partly right; it's a feel-better ban for police on the front lines and citizens who would be far better protected if the ban were extended to cover the knockoff models that the gun industry has been peddling to circumvent the law.

What's the point of flooding the country with weapons that are modeled for killing people, not the hunters' prey? Why bring back bayonets, flash suppressors and multiround magazines designed for quick and heavy gunfire that can help mow down a crowd in the streets or kids in a school? Why ignore the pleadings of District of Columbia Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey, who stood together with more than 70 other police executives Wednesday in support of extending the ban? At least 2,000 sheriffs, police chiefs, law enforcement groups and prosecutors from around the country have asked Mr. Bush to help keep these weapons off the market. Joseph M. Polisar, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, noted that the White House ignored the chiefs' request for a meeting and said Republican leaders in Congress rejected their request for an immediate vote.

Whose "will" do these leaders respect? Most Americans have a will to live without these especially lethal and absolutely unnecessary weapons in their midst. Again, why won't the president act?

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# Gun profits for votes: It's enough to make you sick

en years ago, Congress passed the assault weapons ban, one of the most important public safety measures this country has seen. Although it was not perfect, it represented the best we could do to stem the growth and spread of these weapons throughout our cities and states. But that legislation is going to expire Monday, despite the fact that we have 52 votes for its reauthorization (if it were allowed to come to the Senate floor) and the fact that nearly three-fourths of the American public supports the ban, as do two-thirds of gun owners and every major law enforcement organization in the country.

The National Rifle Association will say: The bill is cosmetic. It hasn't done anything. It has been ineffective.

Then why has the NRA made this legislation and its demise its No. 1 priority? The fact is the NRA is wrong. The percentage of banned assault weapons used in crimes is down by nearly two-thirds since 1994.

Presidents Clinton, Carter, Ford and Reagan, and even George W. Bush, have all expressed support for renewing the ban. But three days from today, none of this support will matter. The assault weapons ban will be history, one more victim of the powerful, selfish NRA and its brutal lobbying tactics. Because the president has steadfastly refused to put his money where his mouth is and help us renew the ban, it is going to expire without so much as even a vote in the House.

We have cried out in vain. There has been no response from the White House. Instead, the president quietly awaits Sept. 13 and hopes that after he lets the ban expire, he can again receive the endorsement of the NRA, because the NRA is not going to make its endorsement until the ban expires. This is truly a dark day.

The assault weapons legislation has worked. No legal owner has been denied a weapon. No weapon has been confiscated. Yet the supply of these weapons on the streets has declined. But come next week, companies will once again begin to churn out large-capacity ammunition devices and powerful,

#### By DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Feinstein, a Democratic U.S. senator from California, is the chief sponsor of the renewal of the assault weapons ban. This article is adapted from comments made Tuesday on the Senate floor.



easily concealed military weapons, all for civilian use.

One advertisement now running in gun magazines is from a company called ArmaLite. In the ad, ArmaLite is offering a coupon for a free flash suppressor for anyone who buys one of their guns. A flash suppressor is used to prevent the flash of the gun when it is fired. So if you are using it, no one can see where you are, particularly at night, by the flash of the weapon.

The advertisement says: "And by the way ArmaLite's rifles are made to be easily retrofitted with your flash suppressor and your other pre-ban features so you don't have to wait if you're choosing an ArmaLite."

That is what we are up against: flash suppressors for votes. It makes me sick to my stomach.

The ad states: "It is not legal to install this on a post-ban rifle until the assault weapons ban sunsets."

A recent study by the Consumer Federation of America found that companies are also gearing up to manufacture large-capacity ammunition clips.

One manufacturer told a caller from the Consumer Federation that there is a pent-up demand for 50-round magazines and larger.

Who needs a 50-round magazine? Hunting laws in every state restrict the number of bullets in a magazine to fewer than 10.

It is clear that time has run out. It is clear the president of the United States will not help, and this is truly a sad day for this nation.

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### After grief, the fear we won't admit

By ROBIN WRIGHT

sychologists say the most intense period of mourning lasts three years. Since Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have indeed passed through several stages of grief, from disbelief to anger to a degree of acceptance. Yet, there's still a gnawing fear in our bellies that prevents full recovery. It's a fear that extends, I believe, well beyond Osama bin Laden and the prospects of another attack, and centers instead on our relationship with Islam itself.

Once familiar to most Americans mainly from seventh grade social studies, Islam has now become synonymous in the minds of many with the biggest post-Cold War threat. Even as we struggle to understand it, we're afraid of it. And because of that fear, we're drawing a Green Curtain around the Muslim world, creating an enduring divide.

Figuring out Islam's role in the 21st century is an existential challenge, but one many of us are emotionally unprepared to face. We pretend that we're not prejudiced, that we understand that most Muslims don't support the horrific bloodshed of bin Ladenism. Yet we still view 1.2 billion Muslim people spread throughout 53 countries as a threatening monolith. As long as we make that mistake, America and its allies won't feel safe, no matter how many billions of dollars are poured into security precautions.

Aside from the vital mission of tracking down bin Ladenists, military muscle is not always an effective instrument for moving forward. Nor are tepid diplomatic initiatives aimed at coaxing authoritarian governments into adopting change at a pace and in a manner that they control. There's another strategy that's gaining favor among Mideast experts: Bring Islamic movements and groups into the political process. Give Islamist parties new political space—wide open space—to absorb passions and sap anger.

That means accepting, even embracing, the idea that Islam is not the problem, but the way out of a political predicament that has been building quietly for decades. It means not only supporting nationalists, liberals and nascent democrats already on our side in the quest to transform the Middle East but also encouraging Islamists and their parties to participate. Basically, it means differentiating between Islamists and jihadists, and accepting anyone willing to work within a system to change it rather than work from outside to destroy it.

"It's hard to imagine political evolution in the next 20 years that does not include the Islamists," says Ellen Laipson, president of the Stimson Center, a Washington think tank that studies international security issues. "They have established legitimacy and a following and you won't make them disappear overnight by supporting the activities of a small elite of secular modernists.... You have to imagine a political space that has both."

Mideast scholars say it's too late to do anything less. The alternative is alienating even more Muslims by excluding them. And alienation—from closed political systems and corrupt economies—is what originally drove many Muslims to seek refuge in their mosques.

Including Islamists in government is an uncomfortable idea for those of us in secular societies. It summons up haunting images of Iranian clerics and American hostages, oppressed women and antiquated laws. That's why for years, U.S. governments have accepted Algeria's military, which voided free elections won by Islamic parties, and Hosni Mubarak's suppression of Egypt's Muslim groups. That's shortsighted because perpetuating the status quo will be worse. Now that Islamists have moved from the fringe to the center of political activity, a trend that has accelerated since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, they can no longer be excluded.

We have to think outside the prism of the war on terrorism. "Even as it wages a resolute campaign against international ter-

rorism, America should not believe that it is engaged in a fight to the finish with radical Islam," Robert Hutchings, chairman of the National Intelligence Council, wrote in a recent issue of Foreign Policy magazine. "This conflict is not a clash of civilizations, but rather a defense of our shared humanity and a search for common ground, however implausible that may seem now."

One of the hopeful signs on this third anniversary of 9/11 is the way Americans are emerging from their grief to discuss a more creative course for the future and to more effectively answer the lingering question: What can America do? A growing number of voices on both the right and the left have been emboldened to shape proposals in a broader context.

The United States has tipped its hat to political change with initiatives to promote democracy. As President Bush said in a June speech in Istanbul, "Democratic societies should welcome, not fear, the participation of the faithful."

Yet in practice, the United States still veers away from Islamists. In Iraq, which Washington seeks to turn into a model for the region, U.N. and U.S. envoys deliberately picked politicians mainly from secular parties to assume power after the formal end of the U.S.-led occupation. Despite strong support in opinion polls, Islamist parties were marginalized. Analysts now predict they'll make a comeback in next year's elections and the United States would be wise not to try to prevent it.

"Political debate must encompass Islam if the debate is to be meaningful. Exclusion of the Islamic factor in Arab politics will simply be one-sided and unrealistic in its exclusion of the single greatest force within politics," writes Graham Fuller, a former senior intelligence analyst, in a paper released this month by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The same applies to the wider Islamic world that constitutes 18 percent of the world's people.

In the race to capture the imagination of the vast, alienated middle, hard-line groups need to be operating under the same legal umbrella as more moderate groups—or they will try to lure the faithful through other means. "It's hard to hand over individual authority to people who are illiberal. What you have to realize is that the objective is to defeat bin Ladenism and you have to start the evolution. Moderate Muslims are not the answer. Shiite clerics and Sunni fundamentalists are our salvation from future 9/11s," says Reuel Marc Gerecht, a Middle East expert and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Transitions away from authoritarian regimes may be messier and more volatile than political transformations elsewhere over the past quarter century. But "Let it roll," Gerecht advises. "Don't walk away. It's part of the process. It's trying to ensure the system is sufficiently open that fundamentalists burn themselves out. You have to rob bin Ladenism of that virulent elixir. If we don't go in that direction, we know all other roads go back to 9/11."

"You want in a Machiavellian way to have fundamentalists do the dirty work," he says. "You want them to take care of the people who slaughtered the children (in Beslan, Russia). The only way to do that is to have them compete in the political system. It may come off the rails for a while in some places, but even if it does, you will be better off. You don't want fundamentalists to take states by coups d'etat."

The premise behind the new ideas is that activists inspired or protected by religion have stood in for jailed or exiled secular opposition figures in many societies. "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God," Benjamin Franklin once said. And more recently, liberation theologians in Latin America, Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union, South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Catholic priests in Poland and the Philippines have played pivotal roles in political transformations.

"Conservative and even fundamentalist views of religion are manageable in a plural environment, as shown by a host of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish cases," wrote French scholar Olivier Roy in the new anthology "A Practical Guide to Winning the War on Terrorism." "A pluralist approach allows civil society to reach the cadres of youth who could be ideal targets for radicals and neo-fundamentalist groups."

Attempts to control the pace of change or choose the participants in the political process could invite an even deeper backlash than we face now. America cannot want less for Muslim countries than it wants for the rest of the world. And Muslims must not feel they are bystanders. "In the end, you have to treat Muslims as adults. They have to become responsible for their own fate," says Gerecht.

Based on conversations with Mideast experts, it appears that in the meantime, the United States could do three things. First, hold a genuine two-way dialogue. For all the hand-wringing about ending hatreds, that essential element is missing.

In a speech at the U.S. Institute of Peace last month, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said that the United States must do more with the Islamic world to dispel "destructive myths" about America and to support "voices of moderation." The most striking thing about the speech was that she gave it to an American audience. Asked why no senior U.S. official had given a similar speech in any of the five largest Muslim countries in the three years since Sept. 11, she replied, "That's a good question. Maybe we should."

Dialogue must not just engage people listed in the local U.S. embassy's Rolodex. We need to listen to the bad guys too to understand where the fissures—and opportunities—might be.

"Even the hard-core jihadis are having big debates about who exactly the enemy is and ... about their tactics," says Princeton University Mideast expert Michael Doran, who gets up early each morning to research Islamist and jihadi Web sites. When U.S. contractor Paul Johnson was beheaded in Saudi Arabia "some said it was wrong. Others said, 'Our violence makes us look bad.' One of the most important ideologues, Abu Baseer, a cleric who was an Afghan jihadist, said 'Westerners in our society have protection.' The radicals countered that an apostate state—Saudi Arabia—can't grant immunity. But Baseer said, 'That's not right, we haven't thrown traditions out.' Three years after Sept. 11 ... the debate among them is totally unknown."

A second course of U.S. action would be to use economic tools. Several Muslim countries, including Algeria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Libya, Iran and Iraq, are seeking membership in the World Trade Organization. The United States could use WTO membership to induce change and force countries to embrace the rule of law.

Finally, we can embrace our own Islamic identity. Islam, the fastest-growing religion in the United States, is expected to become the second-largest faith in six years. Yet Muslims remain on the fringe. Just ask women who cover their heads or men with beards waiting in the boarding areas of airports.

Immediately after 9/11, Bush visited the Islamic Center in Washington and said Islam was not the enemy. This is a noble sentiment, but Muslims must also become part of the mainstream—a challenge faced throughout the West. For Europeans, the most important battle for Muslim hearts and minds over the next decade will not be fought in the Middle East but in European cities where the numbers of Muslims are growing, as Giles Kepel, a French expert on Islam, says in his new book "The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West." "If European societies are able to integrate these Muslim populations ... this new generation of Muslims may become the Islamic vanguard of the next decade," he writes.

The unspoken undercurrent behind our failure to do more over the past three years is what former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski calls "a fear that periodically verges on panic that is in itself blind." As we look beyond our grief, we must also get beyond our prejudice and fear.

Robin Wright covers diplomacy for The Post and is the author of Sacred Rage: The Wrath of Militant Islam (Simon & Schuster).



# **CNMI** faces new budget reduction

By JOHN RAVELO REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday made a gesture that it might reduce the budget for fiscal year 2005 to approximately \$212.65 million—down from this fiscal year's over \$213 million budget by more than a million dollars-eliminating revenuegenerating measures in the Babauta administration's integrated fiscal plan that has yet to be adopted.

Without the revenue-generating measures outlined in the integrated fiscal plan to meet the governor's proposed \$226 million budget for FY 2005, the identified budgetary resources for the next fiscal year amount to only \$212,651,911.

The House capped funding available for the CNMI government's operations to only \$210,525,392, since over \$2 million of the identified budget resources for the next fiscal year would be allotted to slice the budget deficit by one-percent.

Of the over \$210 million available for governmental operations in the next fiscal year, \$1.387 million shall be allocated for medical referral, bone marrow and heart transplants.

The lower chamber yesterday passed House Concurrent Resolution 14-1, which approved and identified budgetary resources for the next fiscal year.

The resolution deducted over \$13.69 million from the governor's proposed \$226 million budget, the bulk of which was targeted by the administration's integrated fiscal plan.

The plan aimed to raise an additional \$10 million for the next fiscal year by increasing nonresident worker fee, which was projected

Monthly arrivals from all markets

indicate that the months of May and

June posted phenomenal growth, as

compared with the same months the

percent and July followed with a 45.01

May posted a growth rate of 67.52

Reports said Azmar's draft employ-

ment agreement with prospective em-

ployees would strictly bind the workers

to refrain from divulging to anyone any

information concerning historical arti-

facts that might be found on Pagan. It

claimed sole ownership of such artifacts

that might eventually be discovered or

"They're [Azmar representatives]

basically telling their employees not

unearthed from the mining site.

**VISITOR** 

From Page 1

previous year.

**AZMAR** 

From Page 1

# MVA swears cost-cutting to continue

By AGNES E. DONATO

REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has vowed to watch its expenses closely, as it approved a \$6 million budget for fiscal year 2005.

MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente said the agency plans to keep its personnel costs down by hiring no replacements for those who have resigned or otherwise left MVA, and by keeping travel expenses at the minimum.

Benavente noted that while MVA attends numerous international trade shows and marketing events annually, only \$63,000 has been appropriated for travel in FY 2005. This comes in line with MVA's resolution to send a maximum of two board members and two staff members to off-island trips.

"We will also monitor all expenditures of our off-island offices very

to add \$3.1 million to the revenue;

driver's license and vehicle fee,

\$1.09 million; and hotel occupancy

tax, \$598,692. The proposed plan

to reduce income tax rebate by 10

percent is also projected to raise an

additional revenue of \$3.42 million

It also deducted over \$2.11 million

in Tobacco Fund and some \$746,273

representing the Tobacco Settlement

Fund from the governor's proposed

The identified budgetary resources

indicated that the House might ap-

prove a new fiscal budget that is

percent increase compared with the

In comparison to arrival figures

in 2002, the growth rate for May is

recorded at 15.13 percent and June fol-

"Due to the occurrence of world

events [the war in Iraq and the SARS

epidemic] in 2003, visitor arrivals are

more realistically comparable to that

to follow CNMI laws," Guerrero said.

"Azmar has no respect and no regard

He said that CNMI Constitution and

statute bestow ownership of discovered

historical artifacts to the people, whether

they are found on public or private land.

Historic Preservation Office, said

Pagan has many prehistoric and his-

toric resources. The proximity of Pa-

gan from the Commonwealth's major

islands makes it difficult, however, to

enforce the law on that island, he said.

Guerrero, a former director of the

to the government.

\$226-million budget.

same period in 2003.

lowed with 1.55 percent.

for CNMI law.'

carefully. We will make sure that we accumulated deficit. Also deducted get the maximum amount of return for our investments," she said.

MVA has offices in Japan, Korea, and China

Like most agencies, MVA will continue operating under Public Law 13-24, pending the enactment of a new budget resolution. Passed in 2003, P.L. 13-24 actually appropriated \$7 million for MVA.

However, only \$5.957 million of this amount remains available to the tourism agency.

A total of \$858,200 was deducted from MVA's budget, after the responsibility of tourist sites maintenance had been transferred to the Department of

Another \$122,836 was cut from

lower than the current fiscal year's

The House, however, could also approve a piecemeal budget, according to Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente, who earlier said that the lower chamber's leadership already assured that the Public School System would be appropriated \$42 million for the fiscal year.

House Speaker Benigno Fitial and discuss budget concerns.

MVA noted.

proposed \$48 million for its new fiscal year budget.

Visitors from Japan made up 63 percent, or 28,710, of the total visitor arrivals. This is a 14 percent increase from arrivals from the Japan market in

Korean visitors composed another 19 percent of the visitors, while Chinese tourists made up about 10 percent.

cers and shareholders, and their respective number of shares;

an audited financial statement; personal financial statements of the

□ initial capital for Pagan mining;

□ names of prospective buyers;

a letter of credit from a bank covered by the Federal Deposit In-

If Azmar meets the MPLA requirements, it may receive a two-year permit to mine pozzolan on Pagan.

dered no bail for the suspect as requested by the U.S. government, represented by assistant U.S. Attorney Jamie Browers.

The prosecution said the incident happened "within the Special Aircraft Jurisdiction of the U.S."

Sept. 21 at 4:30pm.

from MVA's budget was the mandatory

one percent for the Office of the Public

Advertising expenses make up \$3.72

million, or about two thirds, of the budget

approved by the MVA board of directors

last week. Of this amount, some \$625,000

will be used for advertising within the

islands, while the rest will go to promo-

The biggest advertising budget—at

\$1.78 million—was given to Ja-

pan, the primary tourism market of

the Northern Mariana Islands. The

emerging China/Taiwan market came

next with \$590,731, followed by Ko-

rea with \$485,000. The balance will

be shared by the United States, Guam,

MVA earmarked \$1.53 million for

personnel expenses. The remaining

\$709,491 will go to other opera-

Benavente earlier said the meet-

ing with the lawmakers covered a

wide range of issues, including class-

room and supply needs and salary

increases. He claimed that the House

leadership did not recommend any

reduction in the proposed PSS bud-

get, saying that it was realistic and

The \$42-million budget level was

the negotiated amount submitted by

the Executive Branch to the Legis-

lature, according to Benavente. He

said, though, that the PSS originally

and other markets.

tional expenses.

necessary

tions in the international markets.

Auditor, amounting \$61,418.

Lands and Natural Resources.

MVA's funds pursuant to a provision in P.L 13-24 requiring each government agency to reserve two percent of its budget to help retire the government's

over \$213 million.

other members of the leadership, including House Education Committee chair Justo Quitugua, reportedly met with BOE and PSS officials Friday to

The emerging China market posted a

tremendous increase in visitor arrivals

last month with a record-breaking total

of 4,405. In FY 2003, visitor arrivals

totaled 13,368 and in FY 2004, the ar-

In August, Saipan welcomed a total

Fitial said the House would write a

of 45,505 visitors, posting a 21 percent

letter to the MPLA, which would ask

the agency to suspend the conditional

Sometime last month, the MPLA

board unanimously decided to grant

Azmar a conditional approval, giving

the company 60 days to prove its finan-

MPL A ordered Azmar to submit are:

Some of the requirements that

its most recent articles of incorpo-

the names of its incorporators, offi-

approval it had given to Azmar.

cial capability.

rival figures are expected to double.

of arrivals in the same period in 2002,"

increase from the number of tourists that came to the island in Aug. 2003.

the same month last year.

shareholders;

names of investors;

surance Corp.

### **TOURIST**

From Page 1

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent James T. Barry reported that Liu, who was seated at 18H, got up and walked towards the front of the aircraft.

When the two attendants asked him where he was going, Liu allegedly said that he needed to use the restroom.

When the attendants directed him to use the lavatories in the rear portion of the aircraft, he allegedly refused and became combative.

The attendants attempted to escort him back to his seat but the passenger struggled with them.

It resulted in one attendant suffering from a broken nose and another one sustaining bruises and a black eye, the FBI said.

Liu, who was reportedly drunk, was later subdued.

Upon the plane's landing on Saipan at 2:30am, Commonwealth Ports Authority police personnel took custody of him.

An arrest warrant was issued on the

same day Yesterday, Liu appeared in federal court for a bail hearing.

Federal court judge Alex Munson or-

Liu's preliminary hearing is set on

The suspect remains under federal

aipan Tribune Make it your DALL habit.

### **CREDIT**

From Page 1

The bill seeks to provide relief to delinquent borrowers who have loans administered by the CDA for at least five years. According to the bill, relief may be provided if the loans have been the subject of court judgments, have been defaulted on, or at risk of being defaulted on if relief is not afforded.

It seeks to prevent the CDA from filing foreclosure or default collection proceedings-or any court proceeding—on any delinquent loan without first meeting with the borrower and making "good faith attempt" to resolve the outstanding indebtedness.

"For qualified borrowers who have paid CDA an amount of money sufficient to cover the principal amount of the loan plus any costs incurred in default collection proceedings, CDA shall consider the loan paid in full and discharge the debtor, guarantor, and others obligated on said loan from further liability," the bill states.

"[The] CDA shall waive accrued interest and penalties, reduce monthly payments, and/or extend terms of payment so that the principal loan amount may be paid in a regular and systematic manner and ultimately permit qualified borrowers to repay the principal amount borrowed," it states further.

The bill wants to declare the loan as fully paid upon foreclosure of the collateral and the expiration of the redemption period to recover the property. It seeks to prevent the CDA from collecting on delinquent loans beyond the amount of the collateral property.

"There shall be no deficiency judgments entered," the measure states to illustrate this relief.

The bill also seeks to reduce annual interest rate on all outstanding loans to between 4-9 percent.

For qualified borrowers who do not qualify for the enumerated relief, the bill provides that the CDA shall not apply more than one-half of each future payment to interest, regardless of accrued interests and penalties.

The House committee on commerce and tourism recommended the passage of the legislative measure in the lower house.

Although the committee stated that the main purpose of the proposed legislation is to ensure that loans are repaid to the CDA, it recognized that the autonomous agency might suffer initially if the bill becomes law.

"It is foreseeable that the CDA may suffer an initial loss to the expected gross income from loan repayments. However, [the bill] provide[s] for full repayment of the principal amounts," the committee said. "Relief for borrowers that have defaulted or are at risk of defaulting is provided for in the interest obligations, penalty provisions, and foreclosure procedures.

Among the delinquent loans being pursued by the CDA are those of Sy's Corp., which is owned by the family of businessman Ronald Sablan, who chairs the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. The CDA earlier disclosed that Sablan and the company had been delinquent on the loans for more than five years already, pursuing to collect at least \$2.4 million in unpaid loans and interests.

The CDA sued Sablan and the company, seeking the foreclosure of at least four parcels of land mortgaged by the debtors to secure three sets of loans. The mortgaged parcels include a 1,017-square meter lot where the company's Pacific Gardenia Hotel is located.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 **13** 

### **Nation**

# Florida Keys likely spared a direct hit

By HILARY ROXE

AP WRITER

**KEY WEST, Fla.** (AP)—The only whooshing sound Hurricane Ivan stirred in the Keys and populous South Florida on Sunday was a sigh of relief from residents no longer fearful the 150-mph storm would make a direct hit.

But even as Ivan veered west on a course that would take it away from the 120-mile island chain and Florida's east coast, forecasters warned that the state, already slammed by two powerful hurricanes in a month, was not out of the woods yet.

Ivan's forecast track across the eastern Gulf of Mexico could take it ashore on the Florida Panhandle, which took a glancing blow from Hurricane Frances, or parts of the state's west coast that are recovering from Hurricane Charley.

"It's creepy," said Amanda Morrow, sipping frozen coffee at a Tampa restaurant that still had windows boarded up against the earlier storms. "No one knows where it's going to go. That's what is stressful."

Ivan, blamed for at least 60 deaths and hundreds of injuries as it roared across Caribbean island nations, was expected to pass near or over the western tip of Cuba—possibly as an intensified Category 5 storm—sometime Monday.



Ken Cohan, a resident of Long Key fishes near the Cannel 5 bridge in the Florida Keys Sunday Sept. 12, 2004.

At 8 p.m. Sunday, Ivan had top sustained wind of 150 mph, down from 165 mph on Saturday, and was centered 210 miles southeast of Cuba's western tip, the National Hurricane Center said. The minimum for Category 5 status is 156 mph wind.

The storm was moving toward the west-northwest at 10 mph and was expected to turn gradually toward the

northwest.

While hurricane center projections had the storm bypassing the Keys, brushing it with only tropical storm-force wind, uncertainty about its course prompted officials to keep an evacuation order in place for the island chain's 79,000 residents.

"We would be foolish to lift the evacuation order now," said Irene

Toner, Monroe County's emergency management director.

Gov. Jeb Bush said about half of the Keys' residents obeyed the evacuation order. But the Overseas Highway, the only way in and out of the Keys, was not blocked and some evacuees began trickling back during the weekend, though officials were not sure how many.

Tom Bordovsky, 51, was among the Key West residents who never left.

"Motel rooms, gas ... it's just a big hassle," he explained.

A few Key West restaurants reopened, beachgoers went kite surfing and some grocery shoppers—no longer fearful they'd lose power for their freezers—bought ice cream.

"They made a panic out of nothing," said Evaldas Kubilius, 30, who took advantage of what he called perfect conditions for kite surfing. "It's great, especially when you've got nothing to do."

Forecasters acknowledged Sunday what many were thinking.

"The east part of Florida looks like it got lucky," said Rafael Mojica, a meteorologist at the hurricane center. However, he added: "The west part is still within the cone of uncertainty and any deviation to the right by Ivan could mean a close call."

Farther north, in the Florida Panhandle, some residents boarded up their

homes Sunday. But others may have been thinking of Hurricane Frances, the second of three storms that struck the Florida peninsula, which threatened the region last week but limped through without causing major problems.

"It came on a lion and went out a lamb—a lot of people are going to remember that," said Billy Porter, 57, of Sopchoppy, who left the St. Marks boat ramp Sunday to fish for mullet. "They'll think this one might do the same thing. That's what's scary."

Because of Frances, some 335,000 homes and businesses still had no electricity Sunday, utilities said.

However, schools and government offices in many counties planned to reopen Monday after an unplanned week off. And gas stations no longer teemed with motorists rushing to top off their tanks.

Alex Medwit, 50, of Boca Raton, filled the tank of his BellSouth repair truck in an uncrowded filling station, the first time he's seen it that way since Frances struck.

"We definitely did not need another hurricane," said Medwit, who's received food, water and even a thank-you card from homeowners whose phone lines he's repaired. "People are so relieved, so happy that Ivan isn't going to hit. ... These people do not need another hurricane—it's all been too much."

### AGROSS THE NATION

### Suspected arson fire kills 10 in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A suspected arson fire raced through an apartment complex in suburban Columbus on Sunday, killing 10 people who lived in the same apartment and forcing others to jump from thirdstory windows to escape.

At least 53 people were left homeless by the blaze in Prairie Township, which destroyed the building's roof and third floor, melted siding and left its wooden skeleton exposed.

Antonio Noriega said firefighters pulled him from a ladder as he tried to rescue his brothers and nephews.

"My family is dead," Noriega said. Eight of his relatives—including three young boys—and two friends lived in the apartment, he said. Authorities wouldn't say whether others were still missing.

The fire came just six weeks after three fires were set in the same building in an empty apartment and hallway, said Fire Chief Steve Feustel. There were no suspects and no known witnesses to Sunday's suspected arson, he said.

### Ex-Nurse: Depression drove me to kill

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—A former nurse told investigators in a recorded interview last year that depression drove him to kill as many as 40 patients over a 16-year period.

Parts of Charles Cullen's rambling

confession, published in The Sunday Star-Ledger, reveal a man whose life was marred since childhood by depression and who claimed to have attempted suicide more than 20 times.

"There were long periods of time where I did nothing and I thought ... I was working through it, but ... I kept on going into these deep depressions and I would say that that was part of it," Cullen told Detectives Timothy Braun and Daniel Baldwin.

The interview took place Dec. 14, 2003, two days after Cullen was arrested on one count of murder and one count of attempted murder at Somerset Medical Center, where he worked in 2002 and 2003.

In April, he pleaded guilty to killing 13 patients and attempting to kill two others at Somerset. In May he pleaded guilty in the deaths of three patients at Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg.

### Boston Archdiocese gets new abuse claims

**BOSTON** (AP)—The Archdiocese of Boston has received at least 140 new reports of sexual abuse by priests, but said it will not negotiate the claims until it resolves disputes with its insurers over payment of last year's \$85 million settlement.

Archdiocese spokesman the Rev. Christopher J. Coyne told the Boston Sunday Globe that the archdiocese cannot afford to settle the new claims, which legal analysts said could come to about \$20 million.

"We've been letting the lawyers know that we would not be moving forward with negotiations until we have settled with our insurance carriers," he said. Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney for some of the plaintiffs in the new round of claims, said the church has enough resources to settle the claims without insurance money.

"They always seem to have an excuse," he said. "I'm just preparing for trial."

The claims stem from alleged sexual abuse by priests from the 1950s to the 1980s, the Globe reported. Of the priests named, only one was not named in claims settled last year. Coyne said his name was not available.

### **Exonerated man gets** nothing from Florida

**PORT ST. JOHN, Fla.** (AP)—A man who was freed after serving 22 years for a rape he didn't commit walked out of jail with a few possessions in a plastic bag, and nothing else.

Wilton A. Dedge, 42, didn't get the \$100 that Florida gives even its most vicious ex-cons when he was released last month. He didn't get the counseling or job referrals or temporary housing the state offers paroled murderers and rapists.

He didn't even get a bus ticket home. There was no compensation for the prison term Dedge received after a 17-year-old rape victim mistakenly identified him as her attacker. DNA testing proved his innocence.

"The system is not set up to deal with exonerees," said Nina Morrison, an attorney who fought for more than a decade to free Dedge on behalf of the New York-based Innocence Project. "Ironically, instead of getting more, exonerees usually get less."

### 2003 crime rate steady at 30-year low

By CURT ANDERSON

AP WRITER

crime rate last year held steady at the lowest levels since the government began surveying crime victims in 1973, the Justice Department reported Sunday.

The study was the latest contribution

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's

to a decade-long trend in which violent crime as measured by victim surveys has fallen by 55 percent and property crime by 49 percent. That has included a 14 percent drop in violent crime from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003.

"The rates are the lowest experienced in the last 30 years," Justice Department statistician Shannan Catalona said in the report. "Crime rates have stabilized."

The 2003 violent crime rate—assault, sexual assault and armed robbery—stood at 22.6 victims for every 1,000 people age 12 and older. That amounts to about one violent crime victim for every 44 U.S. residents.

By comparison, there were 23 violent crime victims per 1,000 people in 2002. In 1993, the violent crime rate was 50 per 1,000 people, or about one in every 20 people.

Murder is not counted because the Bureau of Justice Statistics study is based on statements by crime victims. In a separate report based on preliminary police data, the FBI found a 1.3 percent increase in murders between 2002 and 2003—from 16,200 to about 16,420.

The new survey put the rate for property crimes of burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft in 2003 at 163 for every 1,000 people, compared

with 159 the year before. The slight increase was not considered statistically significant.

A decade ago, there were about 319 property crimes per 1,000 people, the study said.

There are numerous possible explanations for the sharp, sustained decrease in crime. But experts say the fact that crime rates have leveled off confounds earlier studies that attributed it to such things as a more mature, less violent drug trade or police tactics that focus on high-crime areas.

James Lynch, professor at American University's Department of Justice, Law and Society, said the reason that crime is down so broadly is difficult to pinpoint.

Two recent possibilities, he said, are a prison population at a record 2.1 million and the terrorism fight's deterrent effect on more routine street crime.

"Some of the mobilization for terrorism issues may have put a damper on crime," Lynch said. "It has a chilling effect on a whole lot of stuff."

The low crime rate also has made the problem much less of an issue in national political campaigns. It is almost never mentioned in campaign speeches by President Bush or Democrat John Kerry, and fewer people than in past years now list crime as a top concern in opinion polls.

The National Crime Victimization Survey is based on annual interviews by Census Bureau personnel with about 150,000 people at least 12-years-old. The FBI does a separate crime study based on reports it receives from thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide.

# Edwards: Bush implied Saddam-9/11 link

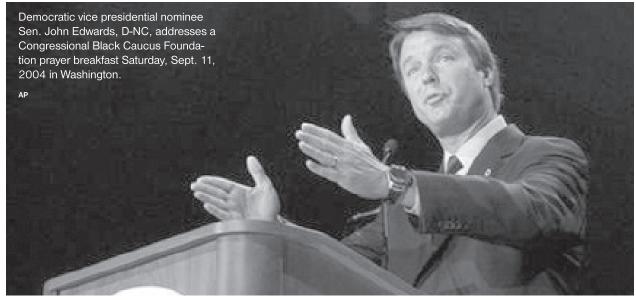
AP WRITER

**DETROIT** (AP)—Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards on Sunday accused President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney of misleading Americans by implying a link between deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"Today, Secretary of State (Colin) Powell made clear that there is no connection between Saddam Hussein and the attacks on September the 11th," Edwards said before an AFL-CIO rally. "From this day forward, this administration should never suggest that there is."

The North Carolina senator was referring to Powell's comments on NBC's "Meet the Press" in which the Republican reiterated a statement made by Bush last September that the administration has no evidence that Saddam was involved in the attacks.

"We know that there had been connections and there had been exchanges between al-Qaida and the Saddam Hussein regime. And those have been pursued and looked at," Powell said. "But I have seen nothing that makes a direct connection between Saddam Hussein and that awful regime and



what happened on 9/11."

Steve Schmidt, a Bush-Cheney campaign spokesman, said Powell's comments are consistent with those made by Bush, Cheney and the bipartisan commission that investigated the attacks.

"This attack by John Edwards is typically baseless and flailing and there is no contradiction," Schmidt said. "The reason for the attack is that John Kerry took his eighth distinct position on the war in Iraq this week and their position has receded into complete incoherence."

Bush said last Sept. 17 that "there's no question that Saddam Hussein had al-Qaida ties." But at the same time the president said, "We've had no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with September the 11th."

At the time, Bush also denied that there was an attempt by Cheney or others in the administration to try to confuse people about any link between Saddam and Sept. 11.

The president's remarks last year were in response to questions about a Cheney appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" three days earlier in which the vice president said "I don't know" when asked whether Saddam was involved in the 9/11 attacks.

However, the Kerry-Edwards campaign argued on Sunday that Cheney suggested such a link as recently as last week.

Speaking at a town-hall meeting in Cincinnati, Cheney recounted the invasion of Afghanistan after the attacks, in which the United States

punished the Taliban for harboring al-Qaida. Then he said, "In Iraq, we had a similar situation."

Saddam "provided safe harbor and sanctuary for terrorists for years," including al-Qaida, Cheney said.

Edwards said: "Vice President Cheney should not say the kind of things he said Friday and the president should not mislead the American people by implying there's connection between September the 11th and the attacks of September 11th and Saddam Hussein."

The Sept. 11 commission cited contacts between Saddam's regime and al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, but said there was no "collaborative operational relationship" and said Iraq was not involved in the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes.

Earlier on the start of a five-day, cross-country campaign swing, Edwards viewed the flood damage Hurricane Frances caused in his home state, a Republican-leaning one the Democratic ticket hopes to win on Nov. 2.

"This is in no way a political issue," Edwards told congregants at First Baptist Church of Canton, which is leading cleanup efforts. "We will do everything we can to help the businesses that have been hit" and fight for federal assistance for families who are "struggling and suffering."

### **Powell defends Cheney's** remarks on attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Colin Powell on Sunday defended Vice President Dick Cheney for saying last week that terrorists will hit the United States again "if we make the wrong choice" on Election Day.

Two days after uttering the explosive comments, Cheney tried to stem the fallout and subsequent criticism from Democrats. He told a newspaper that he did not say terrorists will strike if Democrat John Kerry is elected. Cheney said he was trying to say that "whoever is elected president has to anticipate more attacks."

Questioned about the comment, Powell said the vice president was trying to convey that voters know President Bush and the strategy he is pursuing to win the fight against terrorism.

"Both candidates, I'm sure, will do everything they can to defend the United States of America, whichever one becomes president," Powell said on ABC's "This Week."

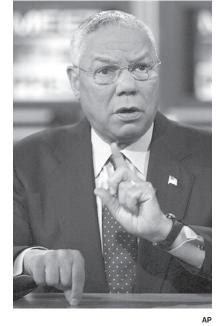
"But what the vice president was saying is, you know the strategies that we are following, you know the aggressiveness with which we have gone after this war against terror.

"And the American people will make their judgment in due course," Powell said.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice echoed Powell's view.

"The vice president has said several times now what he meant by those comments," she said on "Face the Nation" on CBS. "But it is very much the case that the American people will see different strategies for dealing with the war on terrorism. And they know what this president has done."

Cheney was in Des Moines, Iowa, on Tuesday when he told supporters: "It's absolutely essential that eight weeks from today, on Nov. 2, we make



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press" in Washington Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004.

the right choice, because if we make the wrong choice then the danger is that we'll get hit again and we'll be hit in a way that will be devastating from the standpoint of the United States."

Kerry called Cheney's comment "outrageous and shameful." Kerry's running mate, John Edwards, said it was "wrong and un-American" and "intended to divide us."

Cheney sought to clarify himself Thursday in an interview with The Cincinnati Enquirer.

"I did not say if Kerry is elected, we will be hit by a terrorist attack," he told the newspaper. "Whoever is elected president has to anticipate more attacks. My point was the question before us is: Will we have the most effective policy in place to deal with that threat? George Bush will pursue a more effective policy than John Kerry."

Lawsuit: In-car sobriety devices a hazard

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A lawsuit filed by a two-time drunken driving convict claims a dashboard device intended to stop people from driving while intoxicated can actually be a safety hazard.

Jason Reali, 29, said he passed out and crashed his car after blowing into an ignition interlock, a small machine that measures alcohol on the breath and won't allow a car to start if the driver has been drinking.

Forty-five states have laws requiring some drunken driving offenders to install the devices, which also require a series of sober breath samples to continue driving. In Pennsylvania alone last year, interlocks stopped would-be drunken drivers from turning on their cars nearly 34,000 times.

A heavy smoker, Reali said he blew so hard during one test while he was driving that he fell unconscious and crashed into a tree, severely injuring his hand. He was sober at the time.

Reali's lawsuit names the state and an interlock manufacturer as defendants.

Other drivers have had similar complaints.

A 79-year-old woman filed a lawsuit in Florida after she couldn't muster enough breath to get a reading on her court-ordered interlock. Her suit asks the state to lift the requirement that she equip her car with one of the devices, saying that in the case of someone with shortness of breath, the rule violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Center for Auto Safety in Washington has questioned the safety of having drivers perform the breath tests while trying to concentrate on the road.

"I wouldn't want to be driving down the road and have someone coming the other way trying to blow into a tube," said Clarence Ditlow, a spokesman for the consumer group. "There are some real safety issues with regard to distraction that need to be looked at to see if the benefits outweigh the potential risks."

Backers of the devices say problems are infrequent, and that the interlocks do far more good than bad.

Most interlock manufacturers point out that drivers have a window of several minutes to pull over if they feel unsafe using the devices in traffic.

Many of the devices require users to take a deep breath, then blow for as long as six seconds.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation said it will adjust the breath-volume requirement on the machines for people who can produce medical proof that they have diminished lung power.

### US assault weapons ban set to expire

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ten years after it was born out of the carnage of three California mass shootings, the federal assault weapons ban is fading out of existence Monday.

While manufacturers look for a boom in business as people buy up previously banned weapons like AK-47s, Uzis and TEC-9s, police chiefs warn of an upsurge in crime.

The law's chief sponsor, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, is urging retailers not to sell the disputed weapons, while hoping for a change in the nation's political climate.

Feinstein was horrified by the 1984 shooting rampage at a McDonald's in San Diego County that killed 21 people and the massacre of five people five years later at a Stockton elementary school yard.

But it was the shooting at a law firm in San Francisco in 1993, in which eight were killed and six wounded, that the renewal legislation. persuaded her to push for the assault weapons ban.

"It was the ultimate shock," Feinstein said in an interview. "That building is one of the great economic citadels in the city, and you see this prestigious law firm. And then-boom. Someone comes in, aggrieved, and goes right through the place."

Just over a year after the San Francisco shootings, President Clinton signed Feinstein's bill into law. It banned the sale of 19 specific semiautomatic weapons and ammunition clips of 10 rounds or more.

Former Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan wrote to all members of the House to encourage them to pass the ban at the time.

But it was set to expire exactly 10 vears later if it weren't renewed in Congress, and President Bush never pushed Congressional leaders to move

Loopholes allowed manufacturers to keep many weapons on the market simply by changing their names or altering some of their features or accessories. And because existing weapons and large ammo clips were protected by a "grandfather" provision, many pre-ban guns remained in use.

"The bill's not perfect; we could have written a better bill," Feinstein says now. "I just didn't know how craven the gun manufacturers would be."

Studies done by pro- and anti-gun groups as well as the Justice Department show conflicting results on whether the ban helped reduce crime.

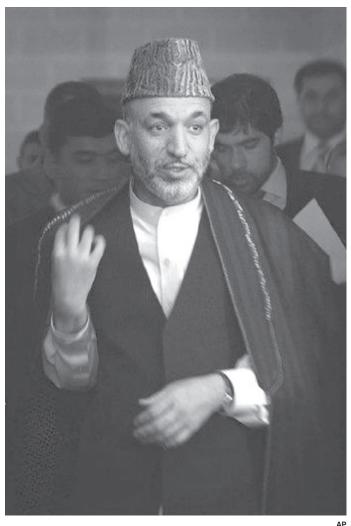
California and other more urban states, including Massachusetts, New York and Hawaii, have passed their own laws curbing the use of assault weapons. Some of those are more stringent than the federal ban.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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### Asia

# Afghanistan clash leaves up to three dead



Afghan president Hamid Karzai arrives at a news conference in Kabul on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004. Demonstrators stormed U.N. compounds and stoned U.S. soldiers in the tense western Afghan city of Herat, a day after the Afghan government sacked Herat's warlord governor

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
AP WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Protesters angered at President Hamid Karzai's sacking of a warlord governor in the west of the country ransacked U.N. compounds and clashed with security forces Sunday, leaving as many as three people dead and dozens wounded, including three U.S. troops who were hit with stones.

Interior Minister spokesman Latfullah Mashal said there were no deaths.

The U.S.-backed interim leader, facing a fresh security crisis ahead of Oct. 9 elections that already are threatened by Taliban militants, denounced the rioting and said he would deal with it "strongly."

Angry protesters took to the streets after Saturday's announcement that Gov. Ismail Khan, the regional strongman, had been "promoted" to a Cabinet post in the capital.

Mobs chanting slogans against the government and in favor of Khan turned their wrath on the United Nations, storming and looting two of its compounds and forcing its staff to flee to an American military base.

At least one U.N. vehicle and a guard house were set ablaze,

spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said.

The U.S. soldiers were injured by rocks as they helped evacuate dozens of U.N. staff and relief workers to their small base in the city, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said.

Afghan police and soldiers trying to control the crowd fired shots and wounded as many as 10 people, Mashal said, claiming the soldiers fired into the air and killed no one.

But the provincial health chief said later that three people were fatally injured, including a 15-year-old boy.

"His family came to the hospital this afternoon and we handed over the body," Mohammed Omar Samim said.

Samim said 51 more were wounded, including one patient in a critical condition. Most suffered bullet wounds, he said. "The surgeons will work through the night."

The deputy director of the city's main hospital, Khalid Ahmad Tawakul, said he had seen the bodies of two young men.

One of the wounded told an Associated Press Television News reporter in the hospital that his leg and facial injuries were caused by shrapnel.

"I was standing in the street with a few others when national

army and American troops were running along the street. Suddenly, someone of them threw a hand-grenade at us," said Bismillah, a 41-year-old man who goes by one name.

But a U.S. spokeswoman dismissed his claim, saying that the protesters had thrown grenades.

"I can tell you with authority that U.S. soldiers did not fire a shot," Lt. Col. Pamela Keeton said.

Keeton said three American soldiers suffered minor facial or shoulder injuries, while one Afghan soldier was more badly hurt. She didn't elaborate.

Karzai condemned the rioters, who also burned the office of a Danish aid group and wrecked the local branch of the Afghan human rights commission, saying they were damaging Afghanistan's fragile peace process.

"That's not what this country wants, and that's not what the people of Herat want," he told reporters in the capital, 360 miles to the east. "We will deal with that strongly."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the attack, a spokesman said, adding that the United Nations remained committed to providing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Afghanistan.

The violence erupted as Khan's replacement, former

Afghan ambassador to Ukraine Sayed Mohammed Khairkhwa, arrived to take up his post.

Karzai has sent more than 1,000 members of the new, U.S.-trained national army and German-trained national police to Herat province since deadly clashes in August between Khan and rival warlords.

Khan, who also helped U.S. forces rout the Taliban three years ago, still has the loyalty of a sizable private army that he has been reluctant to disarm.

He has refused to take up the Cabinet post, saying he stay in his spacious Herat home.

There was no suggestion that Khan had orchestrated the protests—previous attempts to install new governors in other provinces have foundered in the face of violent protests. Still, Khalilzad said he had called the former governor on Sunday to ask for his help.

Khan promised to make a televised appeal to Herat residents to "urge cooperation with the new governor and work for stability and peace in Herat," Khalilzad said.

Officials are keen to stabilize the region ahead of the Oct. 9 vote, which Karzai is expected to win, and remove an unwelcome distraction for the U.S. military as it focuses on battling Taliban rebels further south.

### Arabs: Terror war has spread instability

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Victims of the Sept. 11 attacks were mourned worldwide Saturday, but in the Middle East, amid sympathy for the dead, Arabs said Washington's support for Israel and the war on terror launched in the aftermath of the World Trade Center's collapse have only fueled anger and violence.

From Egypt to Yemen, Arabs said the world had become less safe during the three years since 19 militants from the Middle East hijacked four passenger planes in the United States and used them to kill more than 2,900 people.

"Sept. 11 was a tragic day in our history because so many innocent people were killed at of anti-American hatred that innocent people were killed at could drive people to launch terrorism committed by Israe against the Palestinians, the are filling people with anger."

the hands of militants, who find a fertile ground in our region in view of the biased U.S. policies toward Israel and against Arab causes," said 34-year-old banker Mahmoud Obeid in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

The Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and other bombings since have fueled widespread soul-searching among Arabs over the connection between Islamic extremism and terrorism.

But that has not shaken a long-held belief that U.S. policies in the region—including Washington's support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians—are also to blame for fomenting the kind of anti-American hatred that could drive people to launch

an attack of the magnitude of Sept. 11, 2001, in New York and Washington D.C.

Egyptian columnist Fahmy Howeidy called for critical self analysis from people in the Middle East and Islamic worlds "because those people who committed the Sept. 11 attacks ... were (also) Muslims and Arabs."

"But ... the problem is the Americans don't want to criticize themselves," he told The Associated Press. "They don't look at their policies and mistakes, like the U.S. position toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By defending the terrorism committed by Israel against the Palestinians, they are filling people with anger."

### General: Bin Laden likely issuing orders

By STEPHEN GRAHAM

AP WRITER

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP)—The trail has gone cold in the hunt for suspected Sept. 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden three years after the audacious attacks, but the al-Qaida chief and his No. 2 are still orchestrating strikes like the recent suicide car bombing of a U.S. security firm in Kabul, a top American commander said Saturday.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson told The Associated Press the military had not intercepted any radio traffic or instructions from either bin Laden or his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri. But he said the involvement of well-trained foreign fighters in attacks near the Pakistani border convinced him that the fugitive leaders were pulling the strings.

"What we see are their techniques and their tactics here in Afghanistan, so I think it is reasonable to assume that the senior leaders are involved in directing those operations," Olson, the operational commander of U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan, said in an interview.

The Aug. 26 car bomb which killed about 10 people, including three Americans, at the office of a firm providing bodyguards for President Hamid Karzai also



Maj. Gen. Eric Olson speaks at an interview at Bagram Air Base north of Kabul Saturday, Sept. 11, 2004.

bears the hallmarks of the militant network, Olson said.

"We've even tied it to a group that has ties to al-Qaida. It could be a splinter group of some sort," Olson told AP after a ceremony at the U.S. base at Bagram north of Kabul to mark the third anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"It's a new group, apparently a group that was carved from al-Qaida," he said. "They have members in Pakistan and they have been active in Afghanistan, and this recent attack is the most blatant example." He declined to elaborate.

of fresh fighting in the country, where more than 900 people—mostly Afghan security forces and rebels—have died in political violence this year.

In the troubled southern province of Zabul, Afghan officials

There were reports Saturday

In the troubled southern province of Zabul, Afghan officials said two Arabs were killed and two more captured in a firefight with U.S. and Afghan troops, and that Taliban gunmen killed two elders for supporting the government. In neighboring Kandahar, eight Taliban fighters and three Afghan soldiers were reported killed in two more incidents.

Olson, a native of New York City, addressed some of the 18,000 mainly U.S. troops he commands. About 300 soldiers had gathered in a dusty tent to hear readings from the Bible and the Quran, patriotic songs and speeches reminding them of their mission.

Some wept as they watched videos of how the hijacked jet-liners felled the World Trade Center towers in New York and devastated a wing of the U.S. Department of Defense three years ago.

"We're here to prevent future ceremonies, future Sept. 11s," said Maj. Andy Preston, an infantryman from Edmond, Okla., who was working at the Pentagon when it was hit.

### Afghan prison releases 363 Pakistanis

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Hundreds of Pakistanis jailed for fighting alongside the Taliban were released from an Afghan prison Sunday—a major gesture meant to better strained relations between the neighboring countries.

Pakistani officials met the 363 prisoners as they emerged from Pul-e-Charki jail in the Afghan capital, Kabul, smiling and clutching plastic bags with their few belongings.

Thousands of Taliban fighters

were captured by Afghan factions who helped the United States oust the Taliban regime and scatter its al-Qaida allies after the Sept. 11 attacks. Some are believed to have ended up in mass graves in northern deserts. Many others have languished in crumbling Afghan jails, waiting for politicians to decide their fate.

"They could have done this

"They could have done this much sooner," Pakistani Ambassador Rustam Shah Mohmand said of the prisoner release by Afghanistan. "Still, I appreciate it, and the Afghan and Pakistani governments want to have good relations."

The prisoners gathered in a large tent across the road from the prison, listening to speeches from Mohmand and Afghan officials before boarding buses for the bumpy ride to the Pakistan border.

Abdul Rahman, a 32-year-old from Karachi who spent nearly three years in captivity, said he was "cheated by the mullahs" into fighting for the Taliban.

# **US: Korea cloud not from nuclear blast**

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)— A huge mushroom cloud that reportedly billowed up from North Korea was not caused by a nuclear explosion. South Korean and U.S. officials said Sunday, but they said the cause was a mystery.

Secretary of State Colin Powell confirmed that unusual activity had recently been detected at some of North Korea's atomic sites, but said there was no concrete evidence the North's secretive communist regime was preparing for its first nuclear test explosion.

The South Korean news agency Yonhap reported Sunday that a mammoth explosion in North Korea produced a mushroom cloud more than 2 miles across Thursday. It said the blast was stronger than an April explosion that killed 160 people and injured an estimated 1,300 at a North Korean railway station when a train carrying oil and chemicals apparently hit power lines.

"There was no indication that was a nuclear event of any kind," Powell said of Thursday's incident. "Exactly what it was, we're not sure."

Kim Jong-min, spokesman for the South Korean presidential office, told Yonhap: "Currently, we are trying to find out in detail the exact character, cause and size of the accident, but we don't think North Korea conducted a nuclear test."

China's government, which has the closest relations with North

Taiwan town devotes

doll museum to Barbie

Inc. began outsourcing Barbie-

making jobs to Asia, Taishan

was among the first to get a fac-

tory, in 1967. Although the plant

closed 17 years ago as Mattel

found cheaper labor in China and

Indonesia, the town is trying to

keep the legacy alive at the new

Doll Museum—more a shrine,

It's an example of how a piece

of pop culture can influence a

distant place and its people. For

Taishan, "Bah bi wa wa" wasn't

just a glob of plastic pressed into

a mold. It was an icon that shaped

the identity of the female workers

and became an important piece of

Barbie dolls are even credited

"The women who worked at

the Mattel factory had reputa-

tions for being beautiful and

precious, just like Barbie dolls,"

visitors to the exhibit are told.

the town's history.

with matchmaking.

really—devoted to Barbie.

Korea, had no immediate comment about the reported explosion.

Before Yonhap's report, The New York Times' Sunday editions said senior U.S. intelligence officials had seen signs of activities that some analysts thought might indicate North Korea was preparing a nuclear bomb test. Other experts were more cautious in their assessments, but the developments were considered worrisome enough for the White House to be alerted, the Times said.

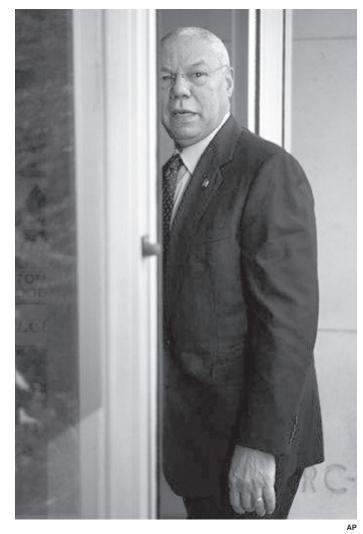
Appearing on ABC's "This Week," Powell said there were "some activities taking place at some sites that we are watching carefully, but it is not conclusive that they're moving toward a test or they're just doing some maintenance at that site."

Later, on "Fox News Sunday," Powell expressed skepticism North Korea would stage a nuclear test explosion.

The North Koreans "know this would not be a sensible step for them to take," he said. "And it is not just the reaction that they might see in the United States; it's their own neighbors."

On Saturday, North Korea said recent revelations that South Korea conducted secret nuclear experiments involving uranium and plutonium made the communist state more determined to pursue its own nuclear programs.

The South Korean experiments in 1982 and 2000, which the South said did not reflect an attempt to develop weapons, are likely to further complicate six-nation talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear



Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives for the taping of "Meet the Press" at NBC studios, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004, in northwest Washington.

development. Another round of talks involving the United States, Russia, Japan, China and the two Koreas is tentatively scheduled this month in Beijing.

Washington is pushing for North Korea to fully disclose all of its nuclear activities and allow outside monitoring before it receives any assistance for

its struggling economy. North Korea wants energy aid, an end to economic sanctions and removal from Washington's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

"North Korea is looking for assurances that we're not going to invade it, (that) we have no hostile intent," Powell said. "They're looking for ben-

efits for giving up their nuclear capability and their nuclear infrastructure. And what we're debating is what will it take to give them the assurances they need and what benefits would they expect over the long haul."

But, he said, the United States will not "reward them for doing something they should've have been doing in the first place. So we're into a very intense period of negotiations.'

Yonhap said the explosion occurred at 11 a.m. Thursday in Yanggang province near North Korea's border with China.

"We understand that a mushroom-shaped cloud about 3.5 to 4 kilometers (2.1 to 2.5 miles) in diameter was monitored during the explosion," Yonhap quoted an unidentified diplomatic source as saying in Seoul, South Korea's capital.

Yonhap said an unidentified South Korean official reported seismic activity related to two blasts in North Korea at 11 p.m. Wednesday and 1 a.m. Thursday. It said a source in China's capital said the explosion left a crater big enough to be seen by a satellite.

Thursday was the anniversary of North Korea's founding on Sept. 9, 1948—a date North Korean leader Kim Jong Il uses to stage performances and other events designed to bolster loyalty among his countrymen.

Experts have speculated North Korea might use such a major anniversary to conduct a nuclear-related test, but one analyst said an open-air test, as opposed to one below ground, would be difficult in such a small country.

of tight security, Bachtiar said.

Indonesian President Megawati

Sukarnoputri and Australian

Justice Minister Chris Ellison

An Islamic Web site posted

a message claiming Jemaah Is-

lamiyah attacked the Australian

Embassy because of its support

Security has been stepped

up in Jakarta since Thursday,

with embassies adding guards

and barriers. Some roads have

The Australian Embassy

warned that more attacks "could

not be ruled out" and urged Aus-

tralians to avoid the area around

the mission, including the huge

Rasuna apartment complex

where a number of Westerners

been closed.

for the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

attended the ceremony.

### **HK pro-democracy** party lags in vote

HONG KONG (AP)—A record 1.7 million Hong Kong voters cast ballots Sunday for an election that sent a fresh contingent of pro-democracy opposition politicians to the legislature, but fewer than the outright majority feared by Beijing's allies, exit polls showed.

The contest was surrounded in controversy even before the results were tallied. Polling stations ran short of ballot boxes, prompting some angry people to give up rather than wait to cast their vote.

Politicians from the opposition Democratic Party conceded they had probably fallen short of expectations, after two candidates became embroiled in campaign scandals. One remains locked up in mainland China after allegedly being caught with a prostitute.

"The scandals hurt us a lot," said Democratic Party lawmaker Fred Li, who won a seat, according to TV exit polls. The Democrats accused pro-Beijing rivals of stirring up trouble—a charge the rivals denied.

The exit polls also predicted victory for a veteran activist known for chanting slogans, burning flags and demanding a fuller explanation from China about its deadly military crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement.

If "Longhair" Leung Kwok-hung ends up inside the legislature instead of staging protests outside it, he could become a major nuisance for unpopular Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa.

"The pro-China figures have been targeting the democratic side, but now they've got somebody even more radical to contend with," political scientist Ivan Choy said.

Official results weren't expected until Monday, but the exit polls conducted for several local media outlets by Hong Kong University researchers were seen as a reliable barometer of the vote's outcome.

Another apparent winner was the outspoken former radio host Albert Cheng, who went off the air in May after alleged threats over his prodemocracy comments-one of the biggest controversies in a campaign that was full of alleged smears and intimidation tactics.

Many Hong Kong voters clearly were frustrated by Beijing's recent decision that ruled out full democracy in the near term despite widespread demands for universal suffrage.

As votes were counted, outrage grew over the shortage of ballot boxes. It was not clear how many polling stations were affected or how many people were unable to vote.

# Indonesia pursues two terror suspects

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)— TAISHAN, Taiwan (AP)— Indonesian police pursued a man-Some Taiwanese towns are hunt Sunday for two of Southeast famous for their clay teapots, Asia's most wanted terrorism others for their ornate painted suspects while warning of the umbrellas. But this grimy indanger of more suicide attacks dustrial city wants to be rememon Western interests in the wake bered for something completely of a lethal bombing outside the foreign. Barbie. Australian Embassy. When U.S. toy maker Mattel

The search focused on Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Top, two Malaysians who authorities say are key members in Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked group blamed for the suicide bombing Thursday that killed nine people and injured more than 170 in front of the embassy.

"We are still facing a terrorist threat, especially from Azahari and Noordin Top," the national police chief, Gen. Dai Bachtiar, said. "We are hunting them down."

Azahari, a British-trained engineer who taught bomb-making classes in Afghanistan and the Philippines, and Noordin, a university graduate and an explosives expert, have reportedly eluded capture at least five times in the past year.

A top police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said authorities believed the two men were still in the country, probably near Jakarta,



Indonesian forensic police reenact one of the events leading up to Thursday's bombing outside Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004.

the capital. He said Azahari and Noordin easily find shelter from Islamic extremists in Indonesia. which is the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Indonesia has endured a series of terror attacks since 1999, all of them blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah. The worst were bombings that killed 202 people on the resort island of Bali two years ago and a suicide attack on Jakarta's J.W. Marriott Hotel

that killed 12 last year.

Bachtiar said interrogations of six would-be suicide bombers arrested in late June revealed that Azahari and Noordin had recruited militants to stage attacks on Western targets including hotels, banks and embassies.

They also had planned to attack the opening ceremony of an anti-terrorism center in Semarang in July, but the operation was canceled because

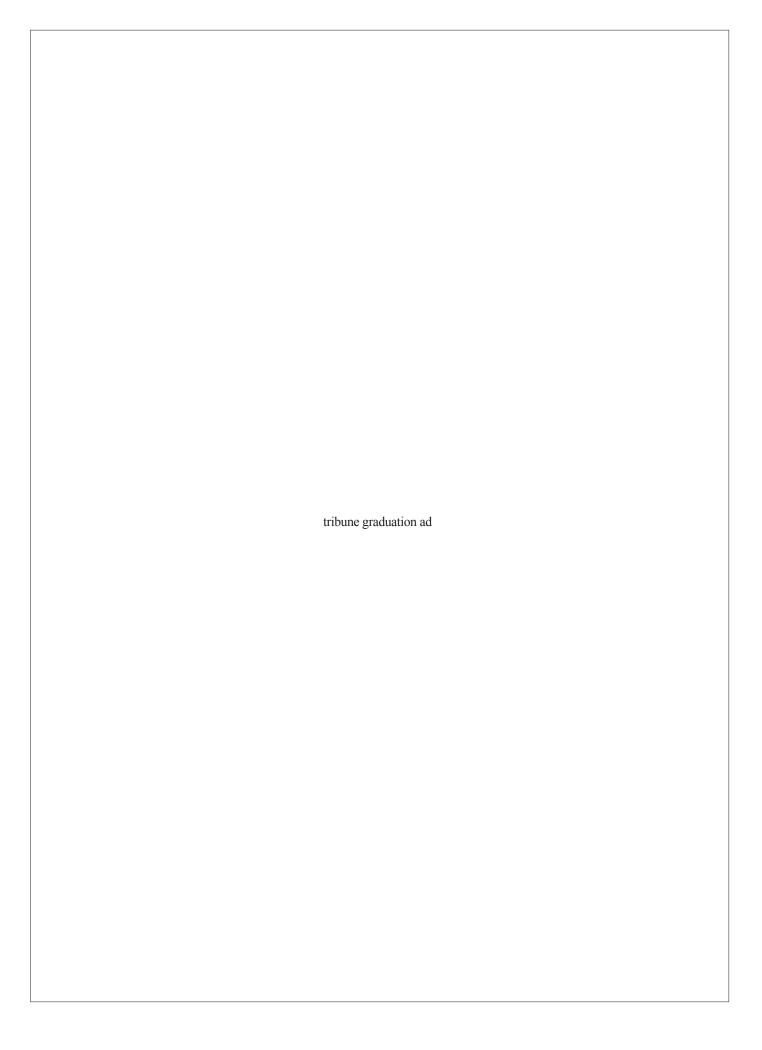
live. The U.S. Embassy e-mailed similar warnings to Americans.

> Ritchie said embassy staff would return to work Tuesday, but the mission would remain closed to the public.

"We've received reports by Americans that there are further threats in that area," Australian Ambassador David Ritchie told reporters. "I would urge residents of that complex to ... take appropriate action, and that could well involve leaving."

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# World



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# Overdrive

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# Life & Style



Director Zhang Yimou, left, and actor Zhang Zivi pose for a photograph during a press conference for the House of Flying Daggers at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto Saturday Sept. 11, 2004.

By DAVID GERMAIN

A few years back, Zhang Yimou was a bit miffed that fellow filmmaker Ang Lee was faster on the draw in elevating the martial-arts epic to serious cinema. But now that Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" has broken the genre into the mainstream among Western audiences, Zhang is happy to follow his lead.

Zhang's Mandarin-language "Hero," a saga of ancient China starring Jet Li, topped the box-office for two straight weekends after its belated U.S. debut in late August. Close behind it will be Zhang's "House of Flying Daggers," another martial-arts historical tale playing at the Toronto International Film Festival and due in U.S. theaters late this year.

"It's difficult to shoot two together in such a short period of time. After that, I feel like I'm getting addicted to shooting martial-arts films," said Zhang, 52, one of China's most acclaimed filmmakers, whose works include "Ju Dou," "Raise the Red Lantern" and "The Road Home"

A fan of martial-arts novels while growing up, Zhang decided to give the genre a try after a string of more contemporary films. About the time the screenplays for "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers" were finished, "Crouching Tiger" became a sensation, topping \$100 million at the U.S. box office, the first foreign-language film to cross that mark.

Though he felt frustrated that Lee got there before him, Zhang plowed ahead with his films.

"I appreciate the success of `Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' because that film did create the market for and the commercial success for 'Hero' and 'Flying Daggers," Zhang, speaking through a translator, told The Associated Press at the Toronto festival.

"Hero," a tale of shifting narratives as different versions of an assassination plot unfold through repeated retellings, earned a foreign-language Academy Award nomination after it came out in China in 2002. "House of Flying Daggers" premiered to an enthusiastic reception at last spring's Cannes Film Festival and may be poised to grab the same mainstream American audience that flocked to "Hero" and "Crouching Tiger."

"I think Ang Lee helped us to open the door worldwide, and we have more chances to bring our movies to America," said "House of Flying Daggers" star Zhang Ziyi, who costarred in "Crouching Tiger" and "Hero" and got her start in Zhang Yimou's "The Road Home." "I think for Western audiences, they are more interested now in action movies, martial-arts movies, Chinese culture and history. Now is a chance for us, but the important thing is, you

should have good movies. Otherwise, the door will close, close, close."

"House of Flying Daggers" centers on a romantic triangle involving a ninth century rebel (Zhang Ziyi) and two men whose love for her results in tragedy.

Like "Crouching Tiger," Zhang Yimou's two films lift martial-arts sequences to balletic grace. Combatants float through the air in dreamlike fashion, arrows rain down like swarming locusts, duelists' chase one another through treetops.

The films explode with color, passion, intrigue and doomed romance. The characters have greater depth than heroes of more traditional martial-arts flicks, where the action is the main attraction.

Those qualities could be why "Crouching Tiger" and "Hero" have broken beyond the usual martialarts niche among U.S. moviegoers, Zhang Yimou said.

"It's maybe because both Ang and I are directors of dramas. We're not experts in this genre, so maybe we're looking at it from a different angle," said Zhang, whose next film will be a contemporary drama. "Maybe there's something special about this type of director shooting a martial-arts film. For example, we pay attention to the story lines, the relations of the characters in the film. We have beauty in the action. It's not the traditional way of shooting martial-arts films."

# hris Matthews back in the spotlight

By DAVID BAUDER AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It certainly can't be a bad thing for a man with a political talk show called "Hardball" to be nearly challenged to a duel by a U.S. senator. MSNBC has quickly moved to take advantage of Sen. Zell Miller's combative GOP convention interview with Chris Matthews, featuring it in advertisements. It was Matthews' second eye-popping exchange with a guest in a month.

Matthews is hot right now, and not just under the collar.

"Hardball" and parts of Matthews' Republican convention coverage gave his network some surprising ratings victories over CNN. The former print reporter whose volume and energy switches never seem off may just be the man to lead MSNBC out of the wilderness.

"Politics is certainly on the top of the minds of people and Chris is the best person on cable doing it," said his boss, NBC News President Neal Shapiro.

Matthews' much-replayed interview with Miller came less than two hours after the Democratic senator spoke to the convention in favor of President Bush, torching Bush's Democratic opponent, John Kerry.

Displeased with the line of ques-

tioning, Miller told Matthews to "get out of my face."

"I wish we lived in the day where you could challenge a person to a duel," Miller said.

Said Matthews, in retrospect: "I was as fascinated by the experience as the viewer was."

Bush supporters' suspicion of Matthews was raised a few weeks earlier following his exchange with conservative columnist Michelle Malkin. During a discussion of the Swift boat controversy, Malkin said there were "legitimate questions" about whether one of Kerry's war wounds in Vietnam were self-inflicted.

"What do you mean by self-inflicted?" Matthews shot back. "Are you saying he shot himself on purpose? Is that what you're saying?"

Malkin dodged the question. So Matthews asked it again. And again, and again.

Eleven times. Matthews grew increasingly angry, and Malkin exasperated. It was gripping television.

He eventually cut her off.

"We are going to keep things clean on this show," Matthews said. "No irresponsible comments are going to be made on this show."

Malkin, who did not respond to a request for an interview, called Matthews a "foaming jerk" in her column the next day.

"What happened last night was pure slimeball and the unfair, unbalanced and unhinged purveyors of journalism, or whatever it is they call what they do at MSNBC, should be ashamed," Malkin wrote.

Faced with a subject who avoids answering a question, many reporters let it slide, letting the non-answer speak for itself. Sometimes they rephrase the question.

But 11 times?

"You can't just come out like on some blog site or some speaker's corner, throw it against the wall and see if it sticks," Matthews said. "I've got to be their editor, and challenge them, at least ... We don't have a corrections page."

Political professionals aren't naive in how they plant seeds of doubt with little factual basis, he said. If they're not challenged, many viewers will simply believe what they heard, he said.

"My guess is Chris might have wanted to pull back a bit," Shapiro said. "But in terms of not getting an answer, I think it's appropriate to probe."

Miller even had Malkin's interview on his mind during the senator's later exchange with Matthews.



Sen. Zell Miller(R-Ga.), right, responds during an interview with Chris Mathews, left, during Matthews' "Hardball" show that aired Sept. 1, 2004 as part of MSNBC's coverage of the Republican National Convention.

"Don't pull that kind of stuff on me, like you did that young lady when you had her there, browbeating her to death," he said.

Matthews, in an interview with The Associated Press, said: "When somebody comes on my show and makes an allegation that somebody committed a felony, I'm going to browbeat them. I want them to say the truth. And if they can't come out with the truth, they shouldn't be talking."

Miller came to MSNBC convention

night after a speech many analysts called angry. He preceded his MSNBC interview with one on CNN that was pointed but with fewer fireworks.

The MSNBC appearance went quickly downhill after Matthews tried to put specifics to some one-liners in Miller's speech. For instance, when Miller used the metaphor of Kerry using "spitballs" for weapons, Matthews asked, "do you mean to say that you really believe that John Kerry and Ted Kennedy do not believe in defending the country?"

# Hollywood has record summer, nearly \$4B

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Summer at movie theaters was a true underdog story for Michael Moore and a gang of dodgeball dimwits, who helped propel Hollywood to another season of record revenue, though the number of moviegoers fell slightly.

Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" became the first documentary to top the \$100 million mark, while Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn's goofy comedy "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" was another surprise \$100 million hit.

Teamed with such familiar favorites as "Shrek," "Spider-Man" and "Harry Potter" sequels, "Fahrenheit 9/11" and "Dodgeball" helped lift the industry to an all-time summer haul of just under \$4 billion from the first weekend in May through Labor Day, according to box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

That's up 3 percent from the previous record of \$3.9 billion set last summer.

But like summer 2003, higher admission prices meant fewer tickets were sold. Exhibitor Relations estimates moviegoers bought 637.8 million tickets domestically this past summer, down 0.76 percent from 2003.

"What this summer on balance taught us, I think, is people were reasonably satisfied," said Marc Shmuger, vice chairman at Universal Pictures, which had hits with "The Bourne Supremacy" and "Van Helsing" and a flop with "Thunderbirds."



Princess Fiona, voiced by actress Camron Diaz, introduces her new husband Shrek, voiced by Mike Meyers, to her parents the rulers of Far Far Away in DreamWorks Pictures computer-animated comedy "Shrek 2," in this undated promotional photo.

"I don't think they were extraordinarily satisfied, but you know what? At the end of the day, reasonably satisfied's not a terrible report card."

The sequels "Shrek 2," "Spider-Man 2" and "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" took the win, place and show spots at the box office, with other follow-ups such as "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement" performing well.

"Shrek 2," reuniting the voice cast of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy, raced

past 2003's smash "Finding Nemo" to become the topgrossing animated movie ever at \$436.7 million.

The slightly naughty irreverence of "Shrek," along with computer-generated imagery that appeals to tech-savvy audiences, helped broaden the movie's appeal beyond the family audience.

"Spider-Man 2," a reunion for director Sam Raimi and stars Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco, came up short of the \$404 million gross of the 2002 original, but the sequel still made a fortune at \$370 million. It should finish a bit ahead of "The Passion of the Christ" as the year's No. 2 hit so far.

Likewise, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" fell shy of the box-office spells weaved by its two predecessors, but the movie's \$247 million gross bodes well for the franchise, whose next installment is due out next year.

Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" was unlike any other summer hit. Its \$118 million domestic total was

### 'Vanity Fair' vies for top award at Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—"Vanity Fair" gave Reese Witherspoon a chance to buck the on-screen custom of portraying 19th-century women as corseted ornaments, with the actress on Sunday describing her willful and ambitious character as a prototype for modern feminism.

The movie—adapted from William Makepeace Thackeray's novel—was the first of three American movies competing for best picture at the Venice Film Festival. At a press preview Sunday, the film was applauded but did not receive the raucous cheers that often hint at a potential winner.

"Vanity Fair" tells the story of Becky Sharp, a girl from the gutters who bulls her way upward in class-conscious British society despite monumental scorn. The character has sometimes been described as an unscrupulous social-climber, but director Mira Nair's film depicts her far more sympathetically.

"Becky Sharp was sort of an early feminist," Witherspoon said. "Becky Sharp was a very radical character at that time. Now we think of ambitious women all the time. We see politicians, and actors and actresses—different people making their way in society. ... I do think she's one of the early, early prototypes for feminism in literature."



Witherspoon

The Indian-born Nair—who won the top Golden Lion prize here three years ago for "Mon-

soon Wedding"—described Sharp as "an ultimate modern woman."

Screenwriter Julian Fellowes said Thackeray was posing a question with his book: "What if women did not accept the fact that they were just supposed to sit down and take it, whatever they were born, and accept their class and lack of financial support or whatever?"

Also Sunday, a mass of modern issues hit the screens here, with the out-of-competition presentation of Spike Lee's "She Hate Me." The film—which Lee has described as being "about sex, greed, money and politics"—got mixed reviews in the United States, sometimes criticized for mixing too many issues.

Lee—who is also one of nine jurors deciding the Golden Lion awards—said that was done on purpose.

A total of 21 pictures are fighting it out for the Golden Lion during the 11-day festival. Among these are two other American films: "Birth" by Jonathan Glazer and "Palindromes" by Todd Solondz.

Other contenders screening Sunday included hometown favorite "Ovunque Sei" ("Wherever You Are"), by Italian director Michele Placido; "Shijie" ("The World"), by China's Jia Zhangke; and animated feature "Hauro No Ugoku Shiro" ("Howl's Moving Castle"), by Japan's Hayo Miyazaki.

Summer regular Will Smith scored another success with "I, Robot," which joined Dennis Quaid's "The Day After Tomor-

six times that of the previous

record holder among feature-

length documentaries, Moore's

"Bowling for Columbine."

Robot," which joined Dennis Quaid's "The Day After Tomorrow," Brad Pitt's "Troy" and M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village" to round out the season's \$100 million hit parade.

Other solid earners included Tom Cruise's "Collateral," Will Ferrell's "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" and the teary sleeper "The Notebook."

Summer duds included Halle Berry's "Catwoman," Jackie Chan's "Around the World in 80 Days," Kate Hudson's "Raising Helen" and Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen's "New York Minute."

wallace

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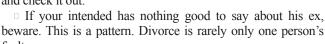
### Wife regrets ignoring signs that warned of bad marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY**: Two weeks ago, my husband let it slip that he wants a divorce. Since we were married, his personality has changed completely. He is not the man I married.

I would like to pass along some tips for anyone considering marriage, and share some of the bright-red flags I chose to ignore.





If his children have nothing to do with him, do not believe him if he says his ex brainwashed them against him. My stepchildren have told me it was because they hated him, and they have good reasons.

Look closely at his credit and job history. They are sure predictors of what your life will be like.

If he's over 30 and has no money, do not let him move in with you, and don't marry him until he's financially solvent. If he has any respect for you (and himself), he'll insist on it.

□ Be sure in your heart that you can live with him AS IS. You cannot change another person.

□ This is a biggie: Beware if he has no friends. It is not true that they all chose to side with his ex.

□ If your friends dislike him, pay attention. This is also true if he hates your friends.

☐ If he has more than one DUI and still drinks, run!

□ If he is one personality at work or with others, and another person alone with you, run.

If he has nothing to do with his parents, investigate why. Don't take his word for it.

☐ If he's an expert at everything and brags a lot, understand that he will turn off a lot of people, eventually maybe even you.

□ If he has sexual problems, go with him to a doctor before you marry him. Believe me, his problem will become your

If he is emotionally or verbally abusive, it will only get worse. Yelling, name-calling and glowering are classic signs of an abuser.

□ If he is never wrong and never apologizes, everything will

be "your fault" forever. And after years of hearing it, you may even start to accept the blame. ☐ If he does something wrong and says, "That wouldn't have

happened if you hadn't ( )," that's another sign of an abuser.

And if he's mean to children, pets or animals, recognize that he's pathological, and the next victim could be you.

I am now 100 percent disabled and in danger of losing everything. I was taken in by someone who came to regard me as a disposable item. I only hope my letter will save someone else from the heartbreak I'm experiencing.

EYES WIDE OPEN IN MISSISSIPPI

**DEAR EYES WIDE OPEN: Your letter is brimming with** well-thought-out advice, and I hope my readers will heed it. Now I have some advice for you: Start asking around for the name of the best divorce lawyer you can find, and be prepared for a fight. I wish you luck.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

# 'Resident Evil' sequel tops box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The undead came alive once more over the weekend as "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" debuted at No. 1 at the box office, bringing in \$23.7 million.

The sequel to 2002's "Resident Evil," based on a video game series about shooting apart shuffling, bio-poisoned zombie attackers, follows hits like last year's remake of "Dawn of the Dead" and the zombie art-house thriller "28 Days Later," which reinvigorated the genre.

Overall, however, it was a slow week for new releases as most kids headed back to school and the big-budget blockbusters of summer evaporated in favor of B-movie-style thrillers and monster movies.

The suspense drama "Cellular," with Kim Basinger as a kidnapping victim who makes a random phone call to a cell phone and pleads with a stranger to find her, opened at No. 2 with \$10.6 million.

"Cellular" did OK, but every other movie was just treading water behind 'Resident Evil,' Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co.

"Resident Evil: Apocalypse"



Milla Jovovich appears in a scene from the new release "Resident Evil : Apocalypse," in this undated promotional photo.

1. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," \$23.7 million.

- "Cellular," \$10.6 million. "Without a Paddle," \$4.6
- "Hero," \$4.4 million.
- "Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," \$2.93 million.
- "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," \$2.90
- "Vanity Fair," \$2.74 mil-
- "Collateral," \$2.70 million. "Napoleon
- "Paparazzi," \$2.60 million.

stars Milla Jovovich as Alice, a bath-towel wearing, butt-kicking security chief who tries to help a group of survivors escape a zombified metropolis before the city of ghouls is annihilated by a nuclear strike.

With its miniskirted heroines and gooey guts-a-plenty, "Apocalypse" appealed mainly to guys under the age of 25.

"Certainly this is an adaptation from a game, so it has its own audience," said Rory Bruer, distribution chief for Sony, which released the film. "The zombies aspect of it is just fun."

Bruer also credited the marketing campaign, which featured early teaser trailers that had little to do with the action-horror theme. One trailer appeared to be an ad for a genetically engineered moisturizing lotion that promises to regenerate dead skin cells—the product that causes the mayhem in the films.

"These movies come out of nowhere and do big business and everybody is caught off guard, but we really shouldn't be," said Dergarabedian. "These horror thrillers always make a killing at the box office. ... They're not trying to woo the critics with this move. It's about commerce."

The rest of the top 10 were holdovers from previous weeks. "Napoleon Dynamite," a weird little independent comedy about a weird little guy and his friends, was notable for hanging in at No. 9 after 14 weeks in theaters. Most movies drop out after about three weeks.

The top 12 movies grossed \$64.7 million, about 11 percent lower than the same weekend last year, when "Once Upon a Time in Mexico" led the box office.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.



Karan

### Designers diverge on spring styles

**NEW YORK** (AP)—What do women want in their closets? Choices—and that's what they'll have next season. The looks ranged from geisha to Palm Beach princess to New York City hipster as Behnaz Sarafpour, Lilly Pulitzer and Donna Karan for DKNY presented their spring 2005 collections Sunday.

Freedom to express your own personal style is emerging as a top trend during New York Fashion Week, said Joan Kaner, senior vice president and fashion director for Neiman Marcus.

Some women may decide to wear the predominantly ethnic looks head-to-toe, while others will use one or two items to modernize their wardrobe, she told The Associated Press.

"It's how you get up in the morning," said Kaner, who noted that the more modest styles will appeal to women, not just young girls.

Karan's DKNY collection, inspired by the streets of Manhattan, included a floral embroidered linen skirt in green—representing the city's urban gardens-and a mosaic Jacquard coat shown with a beaded mosaic camisole, fashioned after the tiles in the city's underground subways.

"It's eclectic...it's what DKNY has always stood for," explained Karan, wearing a purple crocheted shrug and jeans, at Pastis, a restaurant in New York's funky meatpacking district, where her collection was presented.

### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Alicia Keys cancels **Jakarta show**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Singer Alicia Keys and British violin act Bond have canceled concerts in the Indonesian capital after last week's deadly suicide attack on the Australian Embassy. A spokesman for promoter Java Musikindo said Saturday that both acts were due to play Jakarta next month but have pulled out due to Thursday's bombing, which killed nine people and wounded more than 170.

Indonesia has been hit by a series of bombings in recent years that have led many acts to avoid playing in the country. In recent months, however, several popular Western bands performed here.

The embassy blast was blamed on the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, which was also implicated in the 2002 Bali bombings and a blast last year on the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta.

#### **Geraldo Rivera sues** over housing dispute

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP)—Geraldo Rivera is suing the co-op board of the housing development he lives in, alleging members wrongly kept a \$10,000 deposit on one of his properties and prevented him from buying another.

The Fox News senior correspondent owns two homes in the 26-acre Edgewater Colony, where residents own their homes but share ownership of the land.

Rivera said the board refuses to return the security deposit for construction of the first home he bought about five years ago, among other allegations.

"They are arbitrarily and capriciously interfering with my house, down to minimalist details like whether or not I should have a fish tank, or whether I should plant a certain kind of flower or tree," he told The Record of Bergen County for Saturday's editions.

#### TV movie being made about Pope's life

WARSAW, Poland (AP)-Italian producers began shooting a television film about the life of Pope John Paul II in southern Poland, where the pontiff grew up and began his church career.

The film crew began shooting scenes Saturday of a young and athletic Karol Wojtyla kayaking in Lake Dobczyce near Krakow, where he served as bishop from the 1950s, said Marcin Marcinkiewicz, a spokesman for the producers.

"Karol, the story of a man who became pope" is to be broadcast in two 90-minute

segments on Italian television. Production is expected to finish next spring, but no date has been set for the broadcast.

The film is adapted from a historical account by Italian writer Gian Franco Svidercoschi, with the first part set during World War II and the second in postwar Poland.

#### 'Chicago, "Cabaret' lyricist Ebb dies

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Fred Ebb, who wrote the lyrics for such hit Broadway musicals as "Chicago" and "Cabaret" as well as the bigcity anthem "New York, New York," has died of a heart attack.

Ebb died Saturday at his home, said David McKeown, an assistant to composer John Kander, Ebb's longtime collaborator. The lyricist was believed to be 76, although Ebb always was "sweetly vague" about his age, said director Scott Ellis, who worked with him on several shows.

With Kander, Ebb wrote the scores for 11 Broadway musicals, many of them for such leading ladies as Gwen Verdon, Chita Rivera, Liza Minnelli and Lauren Bacall. Minnelli was a particular favorite of the songwriting team, and over the years, the duo created special material for the performer's solo appearances on Broadway and on television specials.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 23

# **Pastimes**

Shannon Essenpreis wins Jr. Miss crown

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Texan Shannon Essenpreis was crowned America's Junior Miss after belting out a Broadway showtune and soaring through interviews with her "bubbly" personality.

Though Essenpreis was crowned Saturday night, television viewers won't see it until July as producers switch to a "reality TV" format. PAX Network camera crews followed the 50 contestants for two weeks leading up to Saturday's contest.

Essenpreis was among five finalists who were given onthe-spot questions tailored to their individual interests. She was asked how she would use the enthusiasm she's displayed as her school's mascot into her planned career as a broadcast journalist.

"I was so nervous," she said after the show. "And the question was so long that by the end of it, I wasn't sure what they were asking me."

Her answer? She'll report on the positive aspects of life while maintaining her personal optimism.

After the contest, Heisman Trophy winner and Junior Miss judge Herschel Walker said he was particularly impressed with Essenpreis' charm and "bubbly" character in her interview last week. Essenpreis won a \$50,000 scholarship.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Lions end futile streak away from home



lying to beat the mistake-prone Chicago Bears 20-16 in Lovie Smith's debut as head coach.

Bracy Walker, who earlier returned a blocked field goal 92 yards for a third-quarter TD, intercepted a thirddown pass in the end zone by Rex Grossman with 18 seconds to go, preserving the win.

Joey Harrington tossed a 4-yard goahead pass to Az-Zahir Hakim in the fourth quarter and Detroit held on for its first road victory since beating the Jets on Dec. 17, 2000.

#### Redskins 16, **Buccaneers 10**

In Landover, Maryland, Clinton Portis ran for 149 yards and a touchdown, and Washington welcomed coach Joe Gibbs back to the NFL with a victory.

Gibbs led the Redskins to three Super Bowl titles in his first stint with the team from 1981-92, and it appeared the old magic was still there when his team dominated the first half.

Portis went 64 yards for a touchdown on Washington's first series.

#### **Steelers 24, Raiders 21**

In Pittsburgh, Jerome Bettis ran for three touchdowns, Duce Staley had 91 yards and Jeff Reed's 42-yard field goal with seven seconds remaining won it for Pittsburgh.

#### **Browns 20, Ravens 3**

In Cleveland, for the first time since their NFL rebirth in 1999, the Cleveland Browns opened the season as winners.

Jeff Garcia threw a 46-yard touchdown pass and ran for another TD in his Cleveland debut.

Cleveland stole the spotlight from Deion Sanders, who came out of retirement for a chance to win another Super Bowl ring, and NFL rushing leader Jamal Lewis.

#### Jets 31, Bengals 24

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Curtis Martin ran for 196 yards and a touchdown, and added another score on a 3-yard TD reception to help New York ruin the regular-season debut of Carson Palmer.

Palmer, the No. 1 overall pick in 2003, commanded the offense well and made very few mistakes, going 18-of-27 for 248 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

### Seahawks 21, Saints 7

In New Orleans, Shaun Alexander scored three touchdowns to get the Seahawks off to a good start on the road.

Seattle was 2-6 on the road last season, but used its first trip this year to start working on expectations the Seahawks will be strong contenders for the NFC title.

Playing behind one of the best offensive lines in the NFL, Alexander rushed for 135 yards on 28 carries. He ran for two touchdowns and caught another.

#### Rams 17, Cardinals 10

In St. Louis, Marshall Faulk ran for 128 yards on 22 carries while sharing time with first-round pick Steven Jackson in the Rams' victory.

Faulk, who has missed 11 games due to injuries the last two seasons, helped the Rams overcome three costly turnovers that kept the margin from being very comfortable. Jackson also played well, running for 50 yards on seven carries.

### **Chargers 27, Texans 20**

In Houston, LaDainian Tomlinson ran



Detroit Lions defender Andre' Goodman, bottom, tackles Chicago Bears running back Thomas Jones during the second quarter Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004, in Chicago.

for 121 yards and a touchdown and the Chargers used a mistake-free passing game and an opportunistic defense to beat Houston.

It marked the first time the third-year Texans lost a season opener.

#### Jaguars 13, Bills 10

In Orchard Park, New York, Ernest Wilford came down in traffic with Byron Leftwich's 7-yard toss to cap an 80-yard drive in the final 2:07 and lift the Jacksonville Jaguars over the Buffalo Bills.

The touchdown ruined coach Mike Mularkey's debut with Buffalo, and placed the blame squarely on a Drew Bledsoe-led offense that bumbled, coming away with 10 points despite three trips into the red zone.

#### Vikings 35, Cowboys 17

In Minneapolis, Daunte Culpepper threw a career-high five touchdown passes, two to Randy Moss, to lead Minnesota.

Against a depleted Dallas defense, Culpepper was both sensational and efficient, going 17-for-23 for 242 yards with no turnovers.

Forty-year-old Vinny Testaverde was 29-for-50 for 355 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions for the Cowboys. His favorite target, Keyshawn Johnson, caught nine balls for 111 yards in his first game with Dallas.

#### Eagles 31, Giants 17

In Philadelphia, Terrell Owens had three touchdown catches, Donovan McNabb threw for 330 yards and tied a career high with four TD passes, and Brian Westbrook ran for 119 yards for Philadelphia.

The Eagles, runners-up in the NFC championship the last three years, won their season opener for just the second time in coach Andy Reid's six seasons.

### **Falcons 21, 49ers 19**

In San Francisco, Aaron Beasley returned a goal-line interception 85 yards in the fourth quarter, and Rod Coleman batted down Tim Rattay's pass on a 2-point conversion attempt with 40 seconds left to secure a win for Atlanta.

Warrick Dunn rushed for two touchdowns and Michael Vick was 13-of-22 for 163 yards in an uninspiring debut under coach Jim Mora, the longtime San Francisco defensive coordinator who took over the Falcons last January.

#### **Broncos 34, Chiefs 24**

In Denver, Quentin Griffin ran for 156 yards and scored three touchdowns in his first game as Clinton Portis' replacement. Denver traded Portis to Washington to get cornerback Champ Bailey, a potentially risky move because Portis rushed for over 1,500 yards in each of his first two seasons.

### Bonds hits 699th home run as Giants top I



PHOENIX (AP)— Barry Bonds hit his 699th home run, and

the San Francisco Giants regained the National League wild-card lead with a 5-2 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Bonds walked twice Sunday, increasing his record total to 203, before homering in the ninth off Mike Koplove, a drive off the bottom of the center-field scoreboard. With 41 homers this season, he is third on the career list behind Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). It was the 100th September homer of his career.

San Francisco (79-65) won for the sixth time in eight games and moved one game ahead of the Chicago Cubs (76-64).

Jason Schmidt (16-6) pitched a four-hitter, struck out nine and walked two in his fourth complete game. A.J. Pierzynski, J.T. Snow hit solo homers against Brandon Webb, and Pedro Feliz followed Bonds to give the Giants consecutive homers in the ninth. Randy Choate (1-3) was the loser in Arizona's 100th defeat this season.

### Marlins 11, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Juan Pierre had three of Florida's 15 hits, and A.J. Burnett (7-6) allowed one run and six hits in eight innings as the Marlins gained a fourgame split and remained 2 1/2 games behind the Giants.

### **Astros 5, Pirates 4**

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Jason Lane doubled home Eric Brunlett, who also doubled, in the 10th as Houston rallied after being held hitless by Dave Williams for six innings.

Chad Qualls came in with two on in the 10th and got Abraham Nunez to ground into a game-ending double play for his first career save.

### Padres 15, Rockies 2

In Denver, Brian Giles hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth off Steve Reed (3-6), then capped a 12-run ninth with a three-run homer against Chris Giselle. San Diego, which stayed 2 1/2 games back of the Giants, had 18 hits and won for just the fourth time in 12 games.

#### Phillies 4, Mets 2

In New York, Vicente Padilla (6-7) allowed four hits in 6 2-3 shutout innings as Philadelphia won its sixth straight and completed its second three-game sweep of the Mets in 10 days. Tim Worrell pitched the ninth for his 19th save as the Philwild-card lead.

lies remained 4 1/2 games off the

#### Cardinals 7, Dodgers 6

In Los Angeles, Larry Walker went 4-for-5 with two homers and three RBIs, ending the Dodgers' fivegame winning streak. The Cardinals went 2-4 on their first losing road trip of the season.

### **Braves 9, Expos 8**

In Atlanta, Andruw Jones hit a winning double in the 12th off Luis Avala (5-10) after an error by shortstop Alex Gonzalez.

John Smoltz, who failed to convert a save for the fourth time in 41 chances. had an 8-5 lead but gave up run-scoring singles in the ninth to Endy Chavez, Terrmel Sledge and Juan Rivera.

### **Brewers 11, Reds 0**

In Cincinnati, Russell Branyan homered in his first two at-bats and Brady Clark hit a three-run homer as former Reds delivered against their old team.

### Yankees 9, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Gary Sheffield and Hideki Matsui hit consecutive homers in the ninth inning, and the New York Yankees took advantage of 14 walks in a 9-7 comeback victory over the Orioles.

New York, which reopened a 3 1/2game lead over second-place Boston in the AL East, trailed 6-2 in the fifth before winning for the seventh time in eight games. The Yankees, who have rallied from deficits of four or more runs in nine wins this year, stranded 17 runners and went 0-for-5 with the bases loaded. New York had not received as many as 14 walks in a game since 1980.

### Mariners 2, Red Sox 0

In Seattle, Gil Meche (5-6) pitched a five-hitter for his second career shutout and Raul Ibanez hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Derek Lowe (14-11).

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki went 2-for-4 with singles in the first and eighth, boosting his total to 231 hits this season. He has 20 games left to reach the 84-year-old major league record of 257, set by George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns.

### Athletics 1, Indians 0

In Oakland, California, Barry Zito (11-10) struck out 10 for the first time since May 27 last year at Minnesota, and Erubiel Durazo hit his career-high 22nd homer, a second-inning drive off Jake Westbrook (12-8). Oakland maintained its two-game AL West lead over

#### Angels 11, White Sox 0

In Anaheim, California, Bartolo Colon (15-11) allowed six hits and struck out six in seven innings to win for the 10th time in 13 decisions. Garret Anderson drove in three runs for the Angels, who began the day two games behind Oakland in the AL West.

#### Rangers 7, Blue Jays 6

In Arlington, Texas, Mark Teixeira homered twice, including a go-ahead, two-run shot drive in the eighth off Justin Speier (3-7) as Texas completed a three-game sweep.

#### Twins 8, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Terry Tiffee, Torii Hunter and Cristian Guzman homered as Minnesota (82-60) won its fifth straight game and ensured its fourth consecutive winning season.

#### **Devil Rays 7, Royals 2**

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jorge Sosa (4-4) allowed five hits in seven shutout innings to win for the first time in six starts since July 31.

# Singh tops favorite Weir at Canadian Open

**By DOUG FERGUSON** 

AP GOLF WRITER

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)— Vijay Singh won another dramatic duel and earned another No. 1 ranking—Public Enemy No. 1 in Canada—for beating Mike Weir in a playoff at the Canadian Open and denying the

fans a celebration they had been

wanting for 50 years. Don't blame Singh.

Weir had three putts to become the first Canadian in 50 years to win his national title—a 10-footer for birdie on the 72nd hole, a 25-footer for eagle on No. 18 in the playoff, and a 5footer on No. 17 at the second playoff hole.

He missed them all, and finally ran out of luck.

Weir pulled his tee shot on No. 18 for the third playoff hole, laid up and then hit his approach in the water. Some 25,000 fans let out a collective groan, and gave begrudging applause when Singh three-putted from the fringe for par.

"I feel for Mike," Singh said. "That was the one person I didn't want to beat."

Maybe when the Canadians get over the loss, they're realize who won their national championship.

Singh closed with a 69 for his seventh victory of the year—only Tiger Woods (twice), Jack Nicklaus (twice) and Johnny Miller have won that often since 1970.

More importantly for

\$810,000 he won Sunday at Glen Abbey gives him just short of \$8.7 million for the season, allowing him to close in on Woods' single-season record of \$9.1 million.

Despite a sore left knee all week, despite playing the 11th hole in 7 over par, and despite trailing Weir by two shots with three holes to play, Singh again found a way to get it done.

He took over the No. 1 ranking from Woods last week, and showed it's in good hands.

Ultimately, however, this will be remembered as one Weir gave away.

The former Masters champion had three-putt bogeys on two of the final six holes - one of them from 8 feet with a chance to lock up the title - and he had a chance to win in regulation with a 10-foot birdie that left a major championship-caliber gallery on the edge of its seat.

It turned away on the final roll, leaving Weir with his only round over par all week-a 1over 72—and both players at 9-under 275.

Joe Ogilvie had a 69 to finish third, two shots behind at 277.

Justin Rose of England had the best round of the tournament, an 8-under 63 that put him in a tie for fourth with Tom Lehman (64), Hunter Mahan (68) and Stewart Cink (69). Mahan, No. 117 on the money list with two months left in the season, earned \$177,187 to assure himself of keeping the card.

Weir appeared to have the the 41-year-old Fijian, the Bell Canadian Open wrapped



up when he holed a 12-foot birdie on No. 10 to get to 12 under and take a three-shot lead over Singh.

But he dropped a shot on the 11th by driving in a bunker, in front of a grassy mound that forced him to lay up short of the creek. Then came a shocking bogey on the par-5 13th when Weir, trying to putt over a ridge from 30 feet, didn't even get his first putt halfway to the hole.

Still leading by two with three holes to play, Weir had a slippery 8-footer for birdie on the 16th that might have effectively clinched it, only to knock it 4 feet by and miss the par putt.

Singh finally caught Weir with a 371-yard drive on the par-5 18th. His approach went long into the rough and he chipped 8 feet by, but his putt caught enough of the left lip to fall in for birdie, and Singh tossed his ball into the water and walked off the green with his putter held high.

He was the winner about an hour later, and looked almost apologetic.

The Canadians showered Singh with respect throughout the week, but there wasn't much love in the playoff. When Singh's 8-foot par putt on the second extra holed lipped out, the gallery let out a cheer.

Vijay Singh chats with Mike Weir on the 17th green during round 3 action at the Bell Canadian Open in Oakville on Saturday Sept. 11, 2004.

72-69-78-74

69-73-77-74

76-66-77-74

72-72-77-73

75-70-73-76

76-68-74-76

70-73-73-78

72-71-79-73

74-71-75-75

74-71-74-76

71-74-77-74

71-71-79-83

# Upsets shake up college football poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO



The upsets have begun and the little guys are moving into The Associated

Press poll. After ranked teams started the season 21-0, five fell to unranked opponents this weekend, shaking up the media poll released Sunday.

While No. 1 Southern California and No. 2 Oklahoma had no problems holding on to the top two spots with lopsided wins, four teams fell out of the rankings-Kansas State and Missouri from the Big 12 and Clemson from the Atlantic Coast Conference and Oregon from the Pac-10.

They were replaced by No. 19 Fresno State, which won at Kansas State, No. 23 Boise State from the Western Athletic Conference, and No. 24 Louisville and No. 25 Memphis from Conference USA.

The Tigers are ranked for the first time.

For Fresno State, it's looking like a repeat of the 2001 season. That year David Carr and the Bulldogs knocked off three teams from marquee conferences and made a run at breaking into the Bowl Championship Series.

Saturday's Fresno State win in Manhattan followed a victory at Washington six days earlier.

Boise State extended the nation's longest winning streak to 13 games by beating Oregon State 53-34 on Friday. The Broncos finished last season ranked 16th after going 13-1.

With Kansas State and Missouri, which lost at Troy on Thursday, falling out of the rankings, it leaves Oklahoma and No. 6 Texas as the only Big 12 teams in the poll. It's the first time the Big 12 has had fewer than three teams ranked since the league started in 1996.

Clemson lost in the closing seconds to Georgia Tech and Oregon was upset at home by Indiana.

Back at the top of the poll, USC picked up one first-place vote (52). Oklahoma still has 10 and No. 3 Georgia, which needed to rally from 16 down win at South Carolina, lost a first-place vote and now has three.

Miami is No. 4 after an overtime victory over Florida State, which fell four spots to No. 8.

LSU is fifth, Texas is sixth and West Virginia is seventh.

Ohio State and California fill out the top 10.

While the Buckeyes escaped the upset against Marshall with a last-second field goal, their rivals to the North weren't so lucky. Michigan's loss at Notre Dame dropped the Wolverines nine spots to No. 17.

Purdue's second straight 50point performance helped the Boilermakers make the biggest jump among ranked teams, seven spots from No. 25 to No. 18.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

31/2

#### **MLB STANDINGS AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division**

56 .606

90 53 .629

86

Tampa Bay	61	80	.433	28		
Toronto	59	84	.413	31		
Central Division						
Minnesota	82	60	.577	10		
Chicago	72	70	.507			
Cleveland	70	73	.490	121/2		
Detroit	64	77	.454	171/2		
Kansas City	51	91	.359	31		

West Division	n							
Oakland	83	59	.585	-				
Anaheim	81	61	.570	2				
Texas	78	64	.549	5				
Seattle	53	89	.373	30				
Yesterday's Games								

#### Minnesota 8, Detroit 5 N.Y. Yankees 9, Baltimore 7 Texas 7, Toronto 6 Tampa Bay 7, Kansas City 2 Seattle 2, Boston 0 Anaheim 11, Chicago White Sox 0

Oakland 1, Cleveland 0

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE **East Division** 84 58 .592 -Atlanta

Florida	74	65	.532	81/2
Philadelphia	74	69	.517	101/2
New York	61	81	.430	23
Montreal	59	83	.415	25
Central Div	risior	ı		
St. Louis	94	48	.662	-
Chicago	76	64	.543	17
Houston	78	66	.542	17
Pittsburgh	66	77	.462	281/2
Cincinnati	65	77	.458	29

#### Milwaukee 62 79 .440 311/2 **West Division** Los Angeles 83 59 .585 -

#### San Francisco 79 San Diego 80 .437 401/2 43 100 .301

#### Yesterday's Games Atlanta 9, Montreal 8, 12 innings Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Mets 2 Milwaukee 11, Cincinnati 0 Florida 11, Chicago Cubs 1 San Diego 15, Colorado 2 St. Louis 7, Los Angeles 6 San Francisco 5, Arizona 2

### **NFL STANDINGS**

AFC East	w		т	Pct.
N.Y. Jets New England Buffalo Miami	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1	0 0 0	1.000 1.000 .000
North Cleveland Pittsburgh Baltimore Cincinnati	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1	0 0 0	1.000 1.000 .000
South Jacksonville Tennessee Houston Indianapolis	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1	0 0 0	1.000 1.000 .000
West Denver San Diego Kansas City Oakland	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1	0 0 0	1.000 1.000 .000
NFC East Philadelphia Washington Dallas N.Y. Giants	1 1 0 0	0 0 1 1	0 0 0	1.000 1.000 .000

#### North 0 1.000 Detroit 0 Green Bay 0 0 .000 Chicago South 0 1.000 Carolina 0 .000 New Orleans .000 Tampa Bay

Seattle 0 1.000 0 St. Louis 1.000 San Francisco Yesterday's Games

Detroit 20, Chicago 16 N.Y. Jets 31, Cincinnati 24 Pittsburgh 24, Oakland 21 San Diego 27, Houston 20 St. Louis 17, Arizona 10 Washington 16, Tampa Bay 10 Seattle 21, New Orleans 7 Jacksonville 13, Buffalo 10 Cleveland 20. Baltimore 3 Atlanta 21, San Francisco 19 Minnesota 35. Dallas 17 Philadelphia 31, N.Y. Giants 17 Denver 34. Kansas City 24

### **BELL CANADIAN OPEN SCORES**

Final Round (x-Won on third playoff hole) x-Viiav Singh 68-66-72-69 275 Mike Weir 68-65-70-72 Joe Ogilvie 70-69-69-69 277 70-70-75-63 278 Justin Rose Tom Lehman 74-70-70-64 Hunter Mahan 72-69-69-68 278 72-68-69-69 278 Stewart Cink Robert Damron 72-71-70-66 Mark Hensby 70-69-70-71 280 69-66-71-74 Jesper Parnevik 280 Billy Andrade 67-75-71-68 281 69-72-68-72 281 David Sutherland D.J. Brigman 67-74-67-73 Pat Perez 68-68-78-68 282

Dean Wilson 71-70-69-72 Steve Lowery 70-69-70-73 69-70-67-76 Cliff Kresge 72-70-74-67 Arjun Atwal 71-67-75-70 71-67-74-71 Kenny Perry 70-69-70-74 Bill Haas 71-71-67-74 73-72-71-68 Casey Wittenberg Chris DiMarco Craig Perks Roland Thatcher Corey Pavin Bill Glasson Joev Sindelar Brett Quigley Chad Campbell David Peoples Dudley Hart David Edwards Richard S. Johnson Roger Tambellini David Frost Jason Bohn Davis Love III Greg Chalmers Tommy Tolles Esteban Toledo Jonathan Byrd Jim Rutledae Mark Brooks Fred Funk Mark Wilson Tim Petrovic Steve Flesch David Duval Omar Uresti Todd Fischer Tag Ridings Phil Mickelson Jim McGovern Billy Mayfair Neal Lancaster Garrett Willis Tom Carter

Dennis Paulson

Brian Kortan

Paul Azinger

Aaron Barber

David Branshaw

69-71-73-71 70-72-75-68 285 74-71-70-70 72-72-71-70 73-70-72-70 72-70-73-70 66-73-74-72 69-71-73-72 73-68-72-72 69-70-73-73 67-69-75-74 72-73-73-68 72-69-74-71 73-70-71-72 71-71-69-75 73-70-72-72 287 72-73-68-74 287 71-72-70-74 72-70-78-68 288 76-68-72-72 72-70-69-77 74-71-75-69 69-73-76-71 74-70-72-73 74-70-71-74 72-70-73-74 73-71-75-71 71-72-76-71 74-70-74-72 71-71-75-73 68-76-72-74 75-69-79-68 291 71-72-76-72 291 70-74-72-75 71-70-75-75 291 71-74-75-72 72-71-76-73 292 69-72-75-76 292 71-74-70-77

72-68-74-78 292

72-73-75-73 293

71-65-75-71

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282

282

283

Jim Carter

Danny Briggs

Dicky Pride

Larry Mize

Dirk Ayers

John Rollins

Andre Stolz

Justin Leonard

David Morland IV

Kevin Sutherland

MLB SEATTLE MARINERS-Called up LHP Randy Williams from Tacoma of the PCL. NEW YORK METS-Placed BHP Matt Ginter on the 60-day DL. Recalled OF Victor Diaz from Norfolk of the IL. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES-Activated RHP NFL ATLANTA FALCONS-Waived S Etric Pruit Signed LB Terrence Melton from the practice squad BUFFALO BILLS-Reached an injury settlement with QB Travis Brown. GREEN BAY PACKERS-Signed CB Al Harris to a five-year contract extension. Released TE Steve Bush.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS-Activated S Bob Sanders, Waived FB Carv Davis, Signed DT Jason Stewart to the practice squad. MIAMI DOLPHINS-Released RB Fred Russell from the practice squad. Signed RB Leonard Henry to the practice squad. MINNESOTA VIKINGS-Signed OT Mike Rosenthal to a six-year contract extension. OAKLAND RAIDERS-Activated Charles Woodson, Traded DT Chris Cooper to Dallas for future considerations. SAN FRANCISCO 49FRS-Waived TE Kevin Ware. Signed FB Matt Stanley from the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS-Activated OT Walter Jones. Signed WR Jerheme Urban to the practice squad. Waived G Jerry Wunsch.

By The Associated Press



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**28** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE